Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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IPU Conference Continues in New Delhi

Pakistani Delegate Condemns India

BK1504163693 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Pakistan has again called for a just and durable settlement of the Kashmir dispute on the basis of relevant UN resolutions and in accordance with the Simla Agreement for the sake of peace and security in South Asia. Speaking at the 89th Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] conference in New Delhi today, the leader of the Pakistan delegation and speaker of the National Assembly, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, said the Kashmiri people had been denied their inalienable right to self-determination for the last four decades despite the commitments made by Indian leaders to the United Nations and the Kashmiri people. On the contrary, he said the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people had been met by armed force leading to widespread violation of human rights which had been amply documented by a number of international human rights organizations.

He said the prime minister of Pakistan has repeatedly called for a dialogue to resolve the Kashmir issue. Unfortunately, however, our endeavors have not yet elicited a positive response. He hoped that for the sake of peace in South Asia and promotion of relations between Pakistan and India, they will be able to resolve the Kashmir issued in the near future.

He also spoke of rising religious extremism resulting in the demolition of the historic Babri Masjid [Mosque] and the subsequent bloody riots. He pointed out that denial of self-determination, religious extremism, unjust dispensations, attempts at hegemony and territorial disputes contributed to regional insecurity.

The speaker of the National Assembly referred to Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program and its various proposals for arms control and nuclear nonproliferation in the region.

Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan also spoke on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Palestine problem. He called solving these issues in accordance with the established principles of human rights and the Security Council resolutions.

He said India accusses Pakistan for training and supporting the Kashmiri fredom fighters, while Pakistan says that India is violating human rights by carrying on state terrorism in Kashmir. Mr. Gauhar Ayub suggested that as proposed by the Indian president in his inaugural speech at the IPU conference calling to stop state terrorism and identifying the countries involved, the two countries should allowe world parliamentarians and international groups to visit the Indian-held Kashmir and Azad Kashmir to see the ground realities. Reaffirming Pakistan's opposition to all acts of terrorism, Mr. Gauhar Ayub recalled that Pakistan categorically condemned the latest acts of terrorism in Bombay and said Pakistan had itself in the past been the victim of such wanton and deplorable acts of violence. He invited the speaker of the lower house of the Indian Parliament to visit Pakistan with a delegation of parliamentarians which, he said, would help in easing tension and opening a dialogue.

Indian Delegate Responds

BK1504160493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] India has strongly objected to Pakistan raking up the Kashmir and Ayodhya issues at the Interparliamentary Union conference in New Delhi. The Pakistan National Assembly speaker, Mr. Gauhar Ayub Khan, referred to the issues while participating in the general debate on the world political, economic and social situation.

Rebutting the allegations immediately, Mr. Vishwajit Prithvijit Singh, a member of the Indian delegation, charged the Pakistan delegation of indulging in persistent communal and vituperative propaganda against India. India will make a detailed reply tomorrow to the Pakistani allegations, as the chair observed that the penultimate day of the conference can be used for the purpose.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that it is extraordinary that a person of the stature of speaker sees it fit to abuse the hospitality of the country by making statements which can only be described as irresponsible.

Further Indian Rebuttal

BK1604125293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] India today hit back at Pakistan for raising the Kashmir and Ayodhya issues at the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference in New Delhi and charged that country with interfering in her internal affairs. The leader of the Indian delegation, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr. V.C. Shukla, said that Kashmir was, is and shall remain an integral part of India. The only remaining issue of Kashmir is the vacation of forcibly occupied territories.

Without naming the country, Mr. Shukla said that a reference was made to Kashmir yesterday by a delegate and said that the core issue in the Indian border state is external support for terrorism and subversion directed against India. He said there is incontrovertible proof in this regard.

Taking strong exception to a reference made by the leader of the Pakistan delegation yesterday about the recent happenings in Ayodhya, Mr. Shukla said that this is an internal matter of India.

Iraq Seeks Help in Lifting Sanctions

BK1604092093 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Iraq has sought India's help in lifting the UN sanctions against Baghdad. The speaker of the Iraqi National Assembly, Mr. Sadiq Mahdi Salih, told newsmen in New Delhi today that India as a member of the UN and the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] can do a lot in lifting the economic sanctions. He said continuance of these sanctions is posing a lot of problems to the people. He said his country would move the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference, now in session in the capital, seeking its cooperation on the issue.

The Iraqi leader said his country has proposed a new initiative with the Clinton administration to solve all outstanding problems. Response from Washington is awaited, he said.

Burma Urged To Release Suu Kyi

BK1504153993 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Over 150 world parliamentarians from 25 countries have urged the Government of Myanmar [Burma] to release unconditionally the Nobel Peace laureate, Aung San Suu Kyi, and other political prisoners in that country. In an open letter to the Myanmar Government, the parliamentarians expressed their deep concern about the condition of Aung San Suu Kyi, who has been illegally detained since July 1989. The letter also calls on the Government of Myanmar to ensure full respect for human rights and fundamental freedom, to accept the results of free elections held in 1980 [as heard], and to take immediate steps to transfer power to the country's democratically elected representatives.

Palestinian Affairs

Official Sees 'Positive Signs' in Rabin Statement

NC1604063893 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Dr. Yazid Sayigh, member of the Advisory Committee of the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, has said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements in Ismailia Wednesday contain positive signs. He noted Rabin's acceptance of a land-for-peace exchange and Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. In an exclusive statement to our radio's central news department, Sayigh expressed hope that Israel will effectively commit itself to this during the negotiations.

'Ashrawi Discusses Upcoming Talks, U.S. Contacts

JN1504163393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1443 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Interview with Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] ['Ashrawi] It is still premature to say anything about signs or decisions. So far, we have not received the required details. We are still watching to see how things will fare. We have another meeting today to follow up on several unresolved issues. We will then communicate the information and details we get to Tunis to be evaluated within a broader context, especially with regard to Arab-Egyptian-U.S., Egyptian-Israeli, and Arab-Arab political discussions.

[Mu'addi] Dr. 'Ashrawi, you have certainly followed the summit between Egyptian President Mubarak and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin in Ismailia and the optimism that prevailed, particularly in the interest of the Palestinians. Will this reinforce the Palestinians' participation in the next round of negotiations?

['Ashrawi] Certainly, there are positive signs. But these are not enough by themselves, since we want an actual commitment, linked to an implementation mechanism, practical steps, as well as tangible details that influence positions at the negotiating table and practices in the occupied territories. We no longer accept promises and generalized stands. We now want the promises to have an implementation mechanism and a full commitment to the requirements, bases, and objectives of the peace process.

[Mu'addi] Yes, it seems that the decision is now clear as regards Palestinian participation. However, its official and final announcement is a procedural matter, pending the issuance of an Arab decision on 17 April in Damascus. What do you say about this?

['Ashrawi] It is wrong to say now that the decision is clear. The decision has so far not been made. There are some real stands which we are working on and developing. It is inaccurate to say now that a Palestinian decision has been made. It is also wrong to try to pass early judgment and create a fait accompli. We are still diligently studying several issues that need to be followed up, so as to get a complete picture to make a decision in light of complete data, and not as a reaction or stand resulting from certain pressures.

[Mu'addi] Has the Palestinian side received a letter of guarantees from the U.S. State Department regarding the points of disagreement?

['Ashrawi] No. We are discussing substantive issues. It is early now to talk about a letter of guarantees.

[Mu'addi] During the talks with U.S. State Department officials, did you raise the question of the nature of negotiations in the next round, how they are going to proceed, and for how long?

['Ashrawi] Certainly this has been discussed, but we told them that this does not mean the Palestinian side's agreement to return to the negotiations, since there are still issues which require a solution. But, of course, we discussed substantive unresolved issues which precluded progress in the previous rounds. The U.S. side also raised several issues, including the continuity of the negotiating

process. We told them this issue will be considered as part of Arab coordination toward a unified stand, if a ninth round is to be held.

[Mu'addi] Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, spokesperson for the Palestinian team, thank you very much.

['Ashrawi] You are welcome.

PLO Continues Contacts for Resumption of Peace Talks

NC1604054393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—An official Palestinian source has affirmed that the PLO, which is interested in the resumption and success of the peace negotiations, still hopes that the requirements for the resumption of these negotiations will be achieved within the next hours and days and that all the obstacles facing them will be removed.

In a statement distributed by the Palestinian information office in Cairo this evening, the source said that the solution of the problem of deportees, including those who were deported since 1967, and lifting the economic and financial siege on the Palestinian people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, are indispensable measures for providing a suitable atmosphere for the resumption of the peace negotiations.

The source pointed out that the Palestinian leadership is continuing its contacts with the various Arab parties to ensure the necessary requirements for the resumption and success of the peace negotiations.

PLO Ambassador Calls on U.S. To Play Role in Peace

LD1604053793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [Announcer] Five days before the date for the resumption of peace talks between the Arabs and Israel, Yitzhaq Rabin declared in Cairo for the first time that he is ready to negotiate with the Arabs on the basis of the principle of land for peace. Such statements were received with a certain caution by the Arab parties, but it seems that Yitzhaq Rabin believes that the ninth round will take place on the set date in Washington. A report by Massaoud Boulatiour:

[Boulatiour] There is clear caution on the part of the Palestinians in the wake of the statements by Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday in Cairo on Israel's readiness to negotiate in the future with the Arabs on the basis of the principle of land for peace. Nabil Sha'th, a high-ranking PLO official, described these statements as constituting a development in the Israeli stand but still insufficient. [Passage omitted on the reaction of the Syrian press]

Yet, it seems that optimism is great inside Israel that their latest proposals will push the Arabs to return to the peace talks on the set date. Algiers radio today contacted the ambassador of the State of Palestine in Algeria [Mundhir al-Dajani, alias Abu al- Izz] and asked him about his opinion on the latest Israeli statements by Rabin declaring for the first time his acceptance of negotiating with the Arabs on the basis of UN Resolution 242. His answer was the following:

[Begin recording] [Al-Izz] We consider that there is a verbal development from Yitzhaq Rabin. It is not a real complete development towards what is happening in the Middle East. What we mean by verbal development is that Yitzhaq Rabin has refused to commit himself to the implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338 when he said that this statement does not mean a return to the 1967 borders. As is known, we demand the implementation of international legitimacy with Resolutions 242 and 338, which call for a complete withdrawal of the occupation forces from all the occupied Palestinian and Arab lands, including holy Jerusalem. Therefore, when Rabin announced this statement and supplemented it by saying that it does not mean a return to the 1967 borders, this development is then a verbal one. He negated it by not committing himself to a return to the 1967 borders. At any rate, this is considered a development as far as the Israeli statements are concerned and not a real tangible development towards international legitimacy resolutions.

[Unidentified correspondent] Mr. Abu al-Izz, it has been said that Yitzhaq Rabin has presented ten proposals in Cairo that would ensure the return of the Palestinians to the negotiating table. Are you actually going to participate in the next round in Washington?

[Al-Izz] As far as the points, which Rabin thinks constitute concessions from their side, they are points that concern procedural issues. Such procedural points are still not considered an acceptable development for a complete Palestinian participation in the negotiations or the next round of the negotiations. At any rate, the Palestinian decision will come only after tomorrow's meeting of the foreign ministers of the cordon states: Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Palestine, and Egypt. God willing, following this meeting, during which an assessment of all developments will take place, there will be a Palestinian stand or decision on participation or nonparticipation in the ninth round of the negotiations.

[Correspondent] Mr. Abu al-Izz, there are negotiations going on now in Washington between the Palestinians and the United States. Could you tell us exactly what the Palestinians are expecting from these?

[Al-Izz] We have previously announced that we demand U.S. participation and complete U.S. supervision and sponsorship of these negotiations. From the Palestinian viewpoint, this means that the United States would not be an observing referee to a match between two sides. At least, it has to decide which side is evading and does not abide by the international legitimacy resolutions and who constantly deviates from the original text of the invitation under which we have been attending these negotiations. [end recording]

Poll Shows Majority Backing 'Arafat, Peace Talks

TA1304175893 Jerusalem AL-MANAR in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] The Jerusalem Research and Publication Center conducted an opinion poll commissioned exclusively by AL-MANAR. Three questions were posed, at random, in this poll, which covered the occupied territories and was held according to accurate standards for polls conducted by specialized centers anc institutions.

The questions included in the poll were:

First question: Do you support the course being led by president Yasir 'Arafat?

The answers were as follows:

Yes: 83.2 percent.

No: 7 percent.

No opinion: 9.8 percent.

Second question: Do you support the resumption of negotiations and the Palestinian delegation's participation in light of the recent Palestinian diplomatic move?

The answers were as follows:

Yes: 76.9 percent

No: 13.5 percent.

No opinion: 9.6 percent.

Third question: Is the Palestinian delegation, which has been appointed by the PLO, carrying out its duty in the best manner and with competence?

The answers were as follows:

Yes: 71 percent.

No: 16 percent.

No opinion: 13 percent.

This poll reaffirms the Palestinian masses' blessing of president 'Arafat's course and support for his leadership. The poll also proves that a majority in the occupied territories backs the continuation of negotiations and is behind the course of the PLO under the leadership of president Yasir 'Arafat.

PLO Said Gathering PLA Troops in Egypt Near Gaza

NC1504150293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Beirut, 15 Apr (MENA)—A responsible Palestinian source has refused to confirm or deny reports claiming that the PLO has embarked on assembling Palestine Liberation Army [PLA] troops in Egypt.

In an exclusive report in today's issue of the Lebanese newspaper AL-SAFIR, the source said that there is a process to reorganize these troops to cope with possible developments, either the resumption of the peace talks or a possible sudden Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip. This is despite reports stating that Tel Aviv has gone back on such plans following a joint Egyptian-U.S. request.

The source denied any knowledge of plans to gather the PLA forces present in Sudan, Libya, and Yemen, reorganize them, and move them to Egypt close to Gaza in preparation for emergency security actions in the Strip.

The source pointed out that a committee has recently been set up to restructure the PLA and prepare it for absorbing additional elements from the various Palestinian organizations in case it is decided to establish the Palestinian National Army in accordance with the proposed autonomy formula for the West Bank and Gaza.

PNC in Jordan Urges Protection for Palestinians

JN1004211293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] The Palestine National Council [PNC] members residing in Jordan have stressed their full rejection and vehement condemnation of the state of war and comprehensive siege to which the whole defenseless Palestinian people are being subjected under occupation, as well as the accompanying policies of starvation, isolation, annihilation, and mass deportations, which violate human rights and breach all international principles, charters, and laws.

In a statement issued in Amman today, the PNC members called on the United Nations and the Security Council, particularly its permanent member states, to condemn all practices of the [Israeli] occupation authorities, implement the resolutions of international legitimacy, provide protection for the Palestinian people under UN auspices in accordance with the international agreements and charters, and oblige the occupation authorities to abide by the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 pertaining to treatment of civilians under occupation.

In their statement, the PNC members also called on the Arab governments and the Arab League to contact all the regional and international states and organizations as well as the UN secretary general and the Security Council and its permanent member states in order to lift the economic siege imposed on the Palestinian people in the occupied territories. They also demanded that the United Nations should provide food and medicine for the Palestinian people, and that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA] should increase its aid to the Palestinian refugees in their camps. The PNC members called on the Arab labor ministers in Amman and on other parties to establish an Arab solidarity fund in order to support the Palestinian workers in the occupied territories.

Algeria

Terrorists Involved in Attempted Assassination Arrested

LD1504201593 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The security forces in the province of Algiers have arrested six other terrorists belonging to the Cite Mahieddine group. This group took part in the attempted assassination of the labor and social affairs minister a few weeks ago. These individuals, who were involved in this attack, are also accused of forgery, deception, and theft. It is worth noting that they already have criminal records.

Public Enterprises May Be Declared Bankrupt

LD1504202693 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Political, social, and economic dossiers were submitted yesterday to the Council of Ministers. This concerns the general national plan, commercial law, and the law on combating terrorism. [passage omitted]

The Higher State Council chairman pointed in his intervention to the need to continue the financial rehabilitation of public enterprises within the context of an industrial restructuring strategy. To facilitate economic activity in the field of company formation and the carrying out of economic operations, the Council of Ministers approved a draft law amending and supplementing the commercial law. Most important of these amendments is the exposing of public enterprises in the future to economic risk and the possibility of declaring public companies bankrupt or legal liquidation in accordance with the terms outline in the law. The state, however, can put an end to the bankruptcy process or liquidation by disbursing debtors.

Moreover, the Council approved a draft law amending the legislative decree pertaining to the combat of terrorism and sabotage. These amendments include the following: facilitating the setting up of trial courts and the consolidation of supervision courts; the lawyer has to be approved by the president of the special court as in the case before other legal quarters; the prosecutor of the special court is free to take on or reject cases pertaining to terrorism or sabotage in accordance with the nature and gravity of the acts brought before him. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Musa on Deportees' March Toward Israeli Lines

NC1604093393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0842 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 16 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Syria this morning to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the five Arab countries involved in the peace negotiations. [passage omitted]

Asked about the Palestinian deportees' march toward the Israeli border, Musa said it is their right to march to return; there is no doubt about it. However, it is important that this not be propaganda meant to compete with the momentum gained by the peace process.

The foreign minister said the brother deportees must know that all of us support their right to return, but we urge everybody, including the deportees, to preserve the peace process.

Musa added: There is no other alternative. The question is not one of marches, demonstrations, slogans, or chants, but is more serious because it concerns land and rights, and it is high time to deal with this issue responsibly.

He said we insist on the deportees right to return, and we are working for their return, but it is important that we keep our priorities straight.

[Paris AFP in English at 0907 GMT on 16 April transmits a report on the deportees' march which adds the following: "Doctor Mahmud Zahhar, a member of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, told AFP that the deportees "expect confrontation. Our goal is to stir up the situation and force the Arab countries not to participate in the negotiations."]

Musa Notes 'Positive' Situation in Peace Talks

NC1504154293 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that he will brief the foreign ministers of the five Arab states concerned with the peace process at their meeting in Damascus tomorrow on the latest developments in the Middle East, the outcome of President Mubarak's talks with the Palestinian president and the Israeli prime minister, and the measures being taken to guarantee success for the peace talks.

He noted that he will meet during his visit to Damascus with President Hafiz al-Asad. He believes that all the parties to the peace talks are prepared to engage in serious negotiations. He added that Egypt is trying to achieve concrete results as soon as possible.

The foreign minister noted that the present situation is positive and shows signs of possible progress in these negotiations. He stressed the need to step up efforts to reach a settlement that tackles the present security concerns. He emphasized that a sense of security can be created once a peaceful settlement has been reached and that every success will positively affect the security climate.

Minister Musa pointed out that President Mubarak's messages to African leaders, which will be delivered next week, explain Egypt's stand on the various issues to be considered by the next African summit. The messages also extend an invitation to that summit.

Musa met earlier today with Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory panel of the Palestinian delegation, who said that the foreign minister briefed him on the outcome of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's talks with President Mubarak. He added that it will be possible to give a clearer account of the outcome of these talks after the Damascus meeting.

Meets With Al-Husayni

NC1504170093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1540 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa met at noon today with Faysal al-Husayni, chairman of the advisory panel of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations.

Following the meeting, al-Husayni said that the foreign minister briefed him on the outcome of President Mubarak's talks with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. He noted that the results of the talks will be discussed tomorrow during the Damascus meeting.

Commenting on reports that the Palestinian deportees in the Marj al-Zuhur camp will attempt to cross the Israeli border, al-Husayni emphasized that every Palestinian citizen who was deported has the right to attempt to return. We will support this if it happens, he said.

Al-Husayni said the deportees' return is necessary because their issue is an essential part of the problem, if not the whole problem. The essence of the problem is to address the issue of deportation as a whole, he stressed. He noted that consenting to the phased return of the Marj al-Zuhur deportees is not a concession, particularly since there are more than 1,200 Palestinian deportees.

In his remarks, al-Husayni pointed out that his joining the talks delegation acknowledges an established fact. He added that Israel is allowing him to perform the task he used to perform through the Palestinian delegation. He affirmed that East Jerusalem is part of the occupied Palestinian territories.

Al-Husayni noted that the ideas Rabin put forward in Ismailia include points worthy of consideration, particularly those pertaining to Resolution 242. He emphasized that this resolution applies to the Palestinians in the same way it applies to the Syrians. This is very important, he said, adding: We want to know from the Syrians what will apply to the Golan Heights so that we can know what will apply to the Palestinians.

Foreign Minister on Results of Mubarak Tour

PM1504132493 London AL-WASAT in Arabic 12 Apr 93 pp4, 5

[Interview with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa by Zaki Shihab in London "after President Mubarak's talks with British Prime Minister John Major"]

[Text] [Shihab] Do you expect the next round of Arab-Israeli negotiations to be held on schedule on 20 April in Washington?

[Musa] There are reasons and factors pointing to the possibility that the peace negotiation round might be held on time.

[Shihab] Does this mean that solutions have been reached for such obstacles as the deportees issue?

[Musa] Yes, we raised the question of the obstacles preventing progress in the peace process, and the deportees issue was one of the issues we raised with the international circles interested in the peace process.

[Shihab] Did President Mubarak raise the deportees issue and ways of solving it with British Prime Minister John Major and Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd?

[Musa] Yes, we discussed the situation in the region in detail with the British officials during our visit. That is in addition to our consultations with U.S. officials. We must not forget that, to us Arabs, the fundamental issue is peace. The deportees issue is one of the obstacles which require solutions.

[Shihab] What solution did Egypt propose for the settlement of the issue of the 400 Palestinian deportees?

[Musa] We do not want to go into details or discuss these details in the media because no final agreement has been reached yet. Egypt gives special attention to the issue of peace in the Middle East and to making progress in the negotiations between some Arab parties and Israel. When we talk about that we deal with the deportees issue as a peripheral issue, a by-product of the current conflict.

[Shihab] The United States and Britain are insisting that Libya hand over the two Libyan suspects in the case of the U.S. airliner explosion over Lockerbie so that they can stand trial in their territories. Libya eagerly says that it is prepared to hand the suspects over to a neutral third party for trial. Does Egypt have a special view on this problem, or a compromise solution to it?

[Musa] We sensed that the British officials, especially Prime Minister John Major, and U.S. officials insist that Libya should hand over the two suspects in the case of the PanAm explosion over Lockerbie in Scotland to the United States or Britain. At any rate, Libya is moving toward implementation of the UN Security Council resolution and respect for international legitimacy, but at the same time we should take into consideration the Libyan viewpoint.

[Shihab] Does this mean that Libya will agree to hand the suspects over to Britain or the United States for trial?

[Musa] No, it is up to the Libyan officials to make such a decision. We in Egypt work for progress that would ease the current burden on Libya, particulary the burden resulting from UN sanctions.

[Shihab] Is there anything new in relations between Cairo and Baghdad, particulary since the return of one of your diplomats to his post in Baghdad?

[Musa] There is nothing new. The task of the Egyptian diplomat is confined to looking after the affairs of the Egyptians living in Baghdad and facilitating their work.

[Shihab] How prepared is Egypt to deal with Saddam Husayn's regime at this stage, and is there a possibility of dealing with him in the future?

[Musa] Several Arab parties utterly refuse to deal with Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. A continuation of this position would delay the normalization of Arab relations with Iraq. The Iraqi president's decision to invade Kuwait and the events that followed caused great bitterness. I do not expect any change in the position regarding the question of dealing with Saddam Husayn. The victim of the aggression has to be fully assured that the aggressions of the past will not be repeated. Furthermore, Kuwait's independence must be respected and recognized.

[Shihab] President Husni Mubarak has accused Iran of encouraging some Islamic groups in Egypt to carry out acts of violence and use explosives. He threatened appropriate reprisals if Iran continues to support these groups. Do the Egyptian authorities have tangible evidence of Iran's support for these groups?

[Musa] President Husni Mubarak's statements were clear. I believe there is no need to add to that.

[Shihab] Does President Mubarak's threat mean that Egypt would encourage Iranian opposition groups to carry out acts of violence in Iran?

[Musa] It is not in Egypt's character to interfere in the domestic affairs of other states. We condemn terrorism and would not combat it with the same method. We have our own ways. If the situation continues, then we will see.

[Shihab] When will you produce your evidence of Iran's support for these Islamic groups?

[Musa] At the appropriate time.

[Shihab] Egypt is witnessing a significant increase in the activities of extremist Islamic organizations. What means will you use to tackle that situation?

[Musa] There is a democratic system in Egypt. Everyone should have the freedom and opportunity to express his views or ideas but the problem with some extremist groups is that they have crossed the red line by resorting to violence and using it as a way of expressing their views and of gaining more support. The danger is not in ideological work and the propagation of views but in the recourse to terrorism, explosives, and threats to public interests and innocent people. Egypt has vast experience in the expression of views and counterviews and in free and clear debate between the supporters of various ideas be they fundamentalist, leftist, or any other ideas.

[Shihab] If fundamentalist groups have crossed the red line as you say, how would you like to respond?

[Musa] Such explosions and acts of terrorism by extremist groups as we have recently seen are a threat to people's lives. That is why we have treated these groups as groups which have crossed the red line. There is a conflict between the general public interests and the aims and interests of these groups.

[Shihab] Is there an international organization behind these groups in Egypt?

[Musa] There certainly is foreign support in various forms for these groups.

[Shihab] How do you view the situation in Sudan, particularly after President Mubarak's indication of differences between Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the National Islamic Front [NIF]?

[Musa] There is a certain problem in Sudan. I do not wish to exaggerate the magnitude of that problem but I say that matters are not proceeding smoothly in Sudan or with Sudan. All we are interested in is the country's stability. Our position is crystal clear on the questions of preserving its territorial integrity, nonseparation of the south, and the Sudanese people's interests which should not be undermined, but at the same time we appeal for a Sudanese policy in harmony with Arab policies, a policy that would end the current tension which results from certain steps or measures taken by the Sudanese Government recently.

[Shihab] From your own observation of what is going on in Sudan, do you detect any differences between al-Bashir and al-Turabi in their treatment of Egypt?

[Musa] We have heard of such differences.

[Shihab] Will you ask the United States to hand Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, leader of the Islamic Group [al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah], over to you for trial?

[Musa] That depends on some legal procedures and positions.

[Shihab] If the al-Fayyum court requested extradition of Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman for a retrial, would you ask the U.S. authorities to hand him over.

[Musa] We will make our decision in the light of legal dictates.

[Shihab] Was the issue of tourism in Egypt and the threat to it raised during your European tour?

[Musa] The issue was discussed in a general way during the talks with British and German officials.

[Shihab] On the question of the deportees, what happened between you and the Israelis, as far as resolving that issue is concerned? Will Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin visit Cairo soon?

[Musa] You are talking about probabilities. We have held contacts with the Israeli, European, and American officials with a view to solving the problem of the deportees.

[Shihab] Do you expect these contacts to bear fruit?

[Musa] We hope so.

[Shihab] If the Palestinians boycott the next round of negotiations, would you expect the rest of the Arabs to boycott it?

[Musa] The question should be addressed to the Arab parties concerned, but we hope everyone will go to the negotiations.

[Shihab] Have you received any assurances from the United States regarding U.S. aid to Egypt?

[Musa] Yes, we will get the aid this year and we will discuss the future of cooperation in the coming years.

Arabs Get 'Illusion' in Return for 'Concession'

NC1504114393 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 2

[From the "Comment" column by Husayn 'Abd-al-Wahid: "Price of Illusion"]

[Text] During preparations for the Madrid peace conference in 1991, Israel created a major crisis over the formation of the Palestinian delegation and laid down arbitrary conditions that specified in detail the characteristics of any Palestinian seeking to join the delegation.

One prominent condition was the ban on the participation of Palestinians from east Jerusalem on the pretext that this would mean Israeli recognition of the Arabism of Jerusalem and of its status as an occupied territory and would conflict with Israel's stance, which stresses that Jerusalem is Israel's unified capital.

Despite the arbitrary nature of this stance and its violating every UN resolution that regards Jerusalem as occupied territory seized by Israel in the 1967 aggression, the Arabs accepted the Israeli proposition out of their desire to prevent Israel from undermining the peace process.

So several names proposed as members of the Palestinian delegation were excluded. Extremely odd solutions were also reached to overcome the intransigent Israeli position, such as creating the position of general coordinator of the Palestinian delegation. This was given to Faysal al-Husayni, a citizen from east Jerusalem whose inclusion in the delegation was opposed by Israel.

The world was surprised a few days ago to hear of Israel's agreement to include al-Husayni in the Palestinian delegation. This appeared as an Israeli change or concession for the sake of peace.

Israel presented Faysal al-Husayni's inclusion in the Palestinian delegation as a major concession. But it was a mere formality that does not express any recognition by the Israelis themselves. In return for the illusion of Israeli concessions, Israel has obtained a real and massive Arab concession represented in its release from Security Council Resolution 799, which demands the return of all the Palestinian deportees.

Israel has, very regrettably, made the Arabs believe that they are the only party to benefit from the peace process and that the only outcome of insisting on legitimate rights will be the squandering of so-called possible solutions. Certainly, these solutions do not meet the minimum Arab demands, because they simply reflect the Israeli concept of peace. It is just a deal to achieve what wars have failed to achieve.

Some of us admire, purely for objective reasons, the Israeli system of negotiations. Failure to study it and practice it will turn this objective admiration into the symptom of a disease or political idiocy.

No Genuine Peace Without Liberation of Arab Land

NC1504005493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2242 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper asserts that a genuine peace leading to the normalization of ties between Egypt and Israel will not be accomplished until all Arab lands have been liberated from Israeli occupation. This liberation, the paper says, will create a favorable atmosphere for an actual peaceful coexistence allowing fruitful cooperation among all parties. The paper says that the Camp David Accord has achieved peace only on an official level.

In its editorial Thursday, the paper expresses the belief that it is difficult, if not impossible, for any normal relations in vital areas to exist between the Egyptian people and a state that still believes in using oppressive force to consolidate its control over the Arab land it occupied by force in June 1967. This state, the paper says, violates all international laws and charters and human principles respected by the international community and defies all Security Council resolutions urging it to stop its brutal aggression against the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and south Lebanon.

The paper denounces the call by Israeli officials, the media, and businessmen to stimulate the process of normalizing relations with Egypt, as if Cairo did not belong to the Arab nation or as if Cairo were not this nation's beating heart. The paper affirms that Egypt considers itself responsible for any part of the Arab world, especially when this part suffers from a hideous occupation that still uses medieval methods to subjugate nations and usurp their territory.

Security, Boycott Fears Bar Israeli Participation in Fair

NC1404083793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 10 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt has refused to let Israel participate in the 26th Cairo International Fair, asserting that conditions in the country don't favor setting up an Israeli pavilion. Israel asked to participate in the fair this year, but Cairo told Tel Aviv that the security situation in Egypt precludes Israeli participation. Egypt expressed fears that Arab states might boycott the fair if Israel took part. Nine Arab states are participating in the fair. They are Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, the Sultanate of Oman, Syria, Libya, Tunisia, Algeria, and Jordan.

Seven years ago, the Israeli pavilion at the fair was attacked by the Egypt Revolution Organization, killing the Israeli commercial attache and a female employee.

This year's fair involves 25 countries, including the United States, Russia, China, France, Poland, Japan, Italy, and Germany.

U.S. Chief of Staff Arrives on Official Visit

NC1404080893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1431 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 13 Apr (MENA)—General Gordon Sullivan, U.S. Army chief of staff, arrived in Cairo on an official visit to Egypt of several days. He was welcomed at the airport by the commander of the central military zone.

Military Talks Open

NC1404125993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1026 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Military talks between Egypt and the United States began at the Defense Ministry today. The Egyptian side was headed by Lieutenant General Salah Halabi, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, while the U.S. side was headed by Gen. Gordon Sullivan, chief of staff of the U.S. Army, currently visiting Cairo.

A military reception was given to the U.S. official. He was welcomed by Lt. Gen. Halabi and a number of high-ranking military commanders.

Halabi affirmed the importance of having strong Egyptian Armed Forces to impose their sovereignty on their territory, fulfill Egypt's obligations, keep the balance in the region, and support the brotherly states.

In an address at the beginning of the talks, Halabi said: We look forward to such fruitful meetings with the U.S. side to promote Egyptian-U.S. military cooperation. The Gulf war proved the effectiveness and importance of this cooperation to keep the balance and ensure the region's stability and security.

Halabi stressed the importance of Egyptian-U.S. military exercises, saying: We are confident that Egyptian-U.S. military relations will be strengthened further in the near future.

For his part, Gen. Sullivan expressed his happiness at visiting Egypt, indicating that his talks with Halabi and other military commanders are a step forward in strengthening the relations of cooperation and friendship between Egypt and the United States.

In his address, Sullivan said the Egyptian Armed Forces and the U.S. forces worked side-by-side during the Gulf war. They are currently working together in Somalia and Bosnia to establish peace there. He added: Through our talks with Egypt, we always seek to strengthen military cooperation to keep peace and balance in the region and upgrade the ties between the two countries.

He expressed the hope that his visit to Egypt will result in further cooperation in the interest of the two countries.

Meets With Defense Minister

NC1504140893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1120 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Defense Minister Lieutenant General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi has remarked that the positive results of President Mubarak's visit to the United States have boosted the unique military relations and cooperation between Egypt and the United States.

Following a meeting today with U.S. Army Chief of Staff General Gordon Sullivan, Lt. Gen. Tantawi said the meeting dealt with ways to consolidate and develop cooperation and opening new fields for joint exercises and military relations in general. [passage omitted]

The U.S. chief of staff began an official visit to Egypt on Monday. He held talks with the Egyptian Army chief of staff and senior commanders to discuss cooperation in various military spheres.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Arrives for Meeting

NC1404160293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1506 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 14 Apr (MENA)—Bosnian Foreign Minister Haris Silajdzic arrived in Cairo this afternoon. During his visit, he will hold talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa on developments in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Official Talks Begin

NC1504123393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—Official talks between Egypt and Bosnia-Herzegovina began here this morning under Foreign Ministers 'Amr Musa and Haris Silajdzic. The sides discussed events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, efforts to guarantee Bosnia's development, stopping the Serbian aggression against Bosnia, and the means to boost bilateral relations in every field. Musa said Egypt supports the Bosnian stand against Serbian aggression and calls on all the parties, especially the Serbs, to sign the peace treaty reached by international envoys Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen. In statements following the

round of talks, Musa said that if the Serbian side does not sign the treaty, "the whole issue must be reviewed" and the Vance plan seen as a failure, in which case the Security Council must review its position and tighten the sanctions against the Serbs. He said the continuing Serbian aggression against Bosnia causes extreme tension in the Mediterranean region and in the Arab and Islamic world. He said no progress has been made because the Serbian aggression and ethnic cleansing continue. He stressed that Egypt rejects these practices. Musa said he told the Bosnian foreign minister that Egypt fully supports Bosnia's position and is ready to work through the Islamic countries' foreign ministers meeting in Karachi and the UN Security Council and General Assembly. He said Egypt will coordinate its steps with Bosnia and the parties concerned with the crisis and strengthen its relations with them.

Silajdzic said the situation in his country is very bad because of the continuing barbaric aggression of the communist regime in Belgrade. He said one-third of the country has been destroyed and 200,000 innocent civilians have been killed in these constant attacks. He called on the Security Council to lift the ban on arming Bosnia-Herzegovina to defend the homeland. He said the sanctions imposed by the Security Council against the Serbs will change nothing in Bosnia because their implementation will take a long time. He said the international community is thus helping the aggressor, who needs time to complete the destruction of Bosnia. The Bosnian foreign minister emphasized his country's right to have the embargo on the supply of weapons lifted to defend itself in line with the UN Charter. He said the air embargo on Serbian planes has a limited effect. He hoped it would help to protect civilians. He stated that the objective of the Serbian aggression is to control Bosnia's territory by annihilating its Muslim citizens, as happened in Croatia. The Bosnian foreign minister called on the international community to exert every effort to stop the massacre of the Bosnian people. He added that Bosnia's Muslims have signed the peace treaty in response to the international community's demands, while the Serbs have refused to sign the treaty that means the achievement of peace in Bosnia.

Saudi Military Official Continues Visit

Meets With Defense Minister

NC1004120193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1032 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Defense Minister General Muhammad Husayn Tantawi today received Staff Major General Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard. Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and Defense Ministry Secretary General Major General Hitlar Tantawi attended the meeting.

The minister welcomed the Saudi guest and emphasized that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are linked by strong ties and that bilateral cooperation between the two countries is continuing in various fields. General Tantawi said that Egypt utilizes all its expertise and resources to train the Saudi brothers in military colleges and institutions and noted the importance of exchanging visits to discuss promoting (?joint) cooperation.

Staff Major General Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz expressed his pleasure at visiting Egypt and at the talks he and his delegation held with Halabi and Egyptian military officials.

The defense minister presented the Saudi guest with the Armed Forces shield and the Saudi official reciprocated with a memento for the occasion.

Comments on Cooperation

NC1004160593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1355 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 10 Apr (MENA)—Staff Major General Mit'ib Bin-'Abdallah Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, deputy commander of the Saudi National Guard, has described his talks today with Armed Forces Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Salah Halabi and other military officials in Egypt as fraternal. He said the aim of the talks was to achieve the greatest benefit for both countries.

He told journalists after the talks that the discussions were good and that they will bear good fruit and strengthen future bilateral military cooperation.

He said the Saudi side raised many issues. The Egyptians, he said, answered with frankness and honesty, and we felt we were talking with our brothers.

Staff Maj. Gen. Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz discussed Egypt's role in developing the Saudi National Guard, saying that the Arabs in general and Egypt in particular always contribute to progress in Saudi Arabia in general and in the National Guard in particular.

Contacts To Arrange Meeting With Sudan Halted

NC1404102793 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Apr 93 p1

['Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar report]

[Text] All diplomatic contacts between Cairo and Khartoum to set a date for the meeting of the joint Egyptian-Sudanese committee, which was scheduled to be held in Cairo after the 'Id al-Fitr holidays [23 March], have stopped.

Diplomatic sources say that the reason for this is the ruling Sudanese Military Council's escalation of the crisis between the two countries and the hostile statements made by Sudanese officials against the Egyptian Government.

Egypt has also refused to clarify its accusations that the Sudanese Government is sponsoring extremists and exporting terrorism in the region.

'New Details' Said To Corroborate Iran-Sudan Terror Links

NC1504091693 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 9 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] Egypt will soon reveal new details about the Sudanese-Iranian scheme to export terrorism to Egypt. Egyptian sources have emphasized that specific evidence and documents corroborate Khartoum and Tehran's involvement in recent terrorist acts in Egypt. The sources maintained that several defendants in recent cases of violence have admitted receiving military training in Sudan and obtaining funds from Iran to finance their terrorist activities.

Egypt has also received proof and documentation from several European capitals, Tunisia, Algeria, and the Sudanese opposition, which all reveal the dimensions of the Iranian-Sudanese plan to overthrow the regimes in Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria, and other Gulf states.

The Egyptian sources said Egypt will soon announce the motives of the dubious Sudanese-Iranian alliance that aims to destabilize security in the region's states, particularly Egypt.

The same sources noted that Egypt has compiled a full dossier on Iran's connection with global terrorist operations to present to international organizations, which will take the appropriate measures to punish Iran. Egypt has been reviewing its relations with Sudan since 'Umar al-Bashir assumed power in June 1989. Egypt recently refused to receive a ranking Sudanese envoy to resolve the crisis between Cairo and Khartoum.

Morocco Praised for Withdrawing Request To Host League Meet

NC1404101693 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p 9

[From the "Viewpoint" column by Zakariya Nil: "Well Done, King of Morocco"]

[Text] King Hassan II did well when his government decided to withdraw its request to host the new session of the Arab League Council in Casablanca next Sunday, 18 April. Fraternal Morocco has thus put an end to all the seditious rumors and the allegations by some Arab papers that Morocco's request to host the council meeting there was motivated by the security conditions in Egypt. If these papers were referring to the deviation of extremists and their terrorist actions, they have regrettably failed to mention the side that has been proven to be behind the financing of the terrorists for destructive purposes, which Western media organs have consistently exaggerated and reported in a provocative way.

Those who raised this false confusion might not realize that each member Arab League country has the right to ask to hold one of the council's session on its territory, as Article 5 of the council's bylaws stipulate. It is the custom that such a request be submitted early, that is during the session that precedes the new one to be hosted. Thus the Moroccan request came too late and this led some to believe that there were some hidden motives.

This Moroccan request had a noble purpose and a pan-Arab objective, namely the Moroccan king's intention to deliver a political speech at the opening session, which some knowledgeable circles described as a royal call to the Arab countries to unite their ranks because it would be difficult for them to catch up with international changes in light of their current conditions and because the rapid changes in international affairs make it incumbent on Arabs to overcome the stage of divisions, which has lasted long enough, and replace it with the spirit of magnanimity and fraternal reconciliation.

But His Majesty King Hassan—who is known as an advocate of Arab accord and solidarity—felt that some circles were trying to exploit this sincere Moroccan request to raise doubts about relations between Egypt and Morocco, which have reached the highest levels of strength and prosperity. Hence his government chose to withdraw its request to the Arab League and to let the meeting be held in Cairo, thus pulling the rug from under the feet of those causing confusion. That was a lesson with a moral and was not unexpected on the part of the fraternal Moroccan people.

Interior Minister on Terrorism, Human Rights

NC1404121093 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 11 Apr 93 p 5

[Interview with Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa by Sana' al-Sa'id; place and date not given]

[Text] [Al-Sa'id] Why is Iran singled out and accused of supporting terrorism against Egypt and destabilizing the region?

[Musa] All the evidence confirms this. Above all, Iran admits it. It brags about exporting its doctrinal revolution, which it uses as a slogan and means to impose hegemony on the region, and spends money to achieve this. It forgets that what it says about supporting terrorism and extremism is classified as aggression against others. We cannot accuse anyone without proof or evidence. There must be some basis for the accusations. Tehran's instigation of terrorism and its training of terrorists are an attempt to export and cover up its own domestic problems. Defendants have admitted Iran supports them. Let me ask you: Why aren't other countries so accused? The accusations being made by more than one side prove that Iran supports and incites terrorism.

[Al-Sa'id] Do you really have proof that Afghan war veterans in Peshawar are also behind terrorist operations in Egypt? What can you ask Pakistan to do about them?

[Musa] Why do you use the term "veterans," which bestows on them a halo of heroism although they have done nothing? We will discuss the issue of these people in detail when the Pakistani interior minister comes to

Egypt. We will discuss the issue and the number of Egyptians active in Afghan ranks and will ask Pakistan to extradite anyone wanted by the law. We have uncovered a new organization the members of which have ties with Peshawar.

[Al-Sa'id] Don't you fear their extradition backfiring in the sense that they will move their operations to Egypt?

[Musa] Their position must be discussed and their activities checked. This is our job; we fear nothing. Otherwise, how can we operate as security authorities? What I am saying is that there is no hostility between us and the Islamists. There is no problem between us. But if they commit crimes in the name of Islam, they must be punished. We can't let them go unpunished.

[Al-Sa'id] On the eve of the Mubarak-Clinton meeting in Washington last Tuesday, didn't the U.S.-based Middle East Watch organization issue a report condemning Egypt for torturing detainees and accusing it of detaining entire families to force the suspects to surrender?

[Musa] This report is baseless, untrue. Observers from this organization came to Egypt and saw things as they are. They criticized our prisons, saying they are damp and crowded. We told them we would build new prisons. The investigators' mistake was to listen to those who wounded themselves to make it look as if the security authorities tortured them.

[Al-Sa'id] Amnesty International also released a report accusing Egypt of violating and diminishing the rights of Copts and imposing restrictions on building and repairing churches.

[Musa] This is untrue. The rights of the Copts are safeguarded. Copts are treated exactly as Muslims. I swear by God almighty that I have never discriminated against Christians. We do not restrict the building of churches. How can we do this to places of worship? The accusations these organizations make are groundless. These organizations must not make charges based on hearsay by disaffected individuals who want to harm Egypt and its democracy. Egypt's doors are open to anyone who wants to learn the truth and grasp the picture of human rights.

We are firmly committed to human rights and need no organization to tell us what we should do to uphold them. I believe human rights are better served in Egypt than in the United States or United Kingdom.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people claim Islamic groups have 200,000 members.

[Musa] This is outrageous. The extremists do not have this kind of following. They do not have more than a few hundreds [as published] leaders, whose power has been eroded. There are between 5,000 and 10,000 followers. Detainees' confessions have helped to identify many. We have information about their cadres, training centers, and sources of funds and weapons.

[Al-Sa'id] What about claims that the United States plays a mysterious role in extremism and terror? How can we justify 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman's stay in the United States? The United States is also said to have opened contact with the Muslim Brotherhood in 1991, contacts it severed in June 1992, and to have contact with Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. Is the United States hedging its bets?

[Musa] Why don't you ask the United States? We asked U.S. officials and they denied anything of this sort. We asked them about 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, how he was allowed to stay, how he was given a green card, and how he was belatedly investigated. They said 'Abd-al-Rahman was allowed into the United States by mistake and that they are awaiting a court ruling, which will take some time, to deport him.

[Al-Sa'id] Did you find this convincing?

[Musa] Even if it were not, what should we do? The media should ask America the truth.

[Al-Sa'id] Of Mahmud Abu-Halimah [deported to the United States on suspicion of involvement in the World Trade Center bombing], it has been said that the Egyptian security forces held members of his family and tortured them, forcing Abu-Halimah to come to Egypt to save them.

[Musa] This is a lie. No such thing happened. Abu-Halimah went to our consulate in Jeddah and asked to visit Egypt as a German national. U.S. authorities alerted us that Abu-Halimah, having left America, might come to Egypt. Two or three days after he arrived in Egypt, we asked Abu-Halimah about his story and he said: I want to go to the United States.

[Al-Sa'id] Ashraf Sayyid, the second defendant in the assassination of antifundamentalist writer Faraj Fudah, remains at large. But some security authorities claim he was arrested.

[Musa] The claims were not by security authorities. Some newspapers reported he was arrested by mistake.

[Al-Sa'id] Some people question Egypt's ability to host an Arab foreign ministers conference, expected to be held in Egypt within a few days, saying it lacks security and stability.

[Musa] According to Arab League bylaws, any country has the right to host the conference. But I must point out that Egypt is safe and stable and recently hosted several conferences, including one on tourism.

[Al-Sa'id] We may say Egypt is relatively calm. But is this the calm that precedes the storm?

[Musa] Praise be to God. I do not want to play down or exaggerate things. Perhaps we have not eradicated extremist elements, but we have made a firm commitment never to condone terror. Those who are wanted by the Prosecution Office will be taken into police custody

and any charges against them will be investigated. Those who lay down their arms and give themselves up will not be harmed.

Mediator Aims To Broker Peace Between Regime, Militants

NC1504165593 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, April 15 (AFP) - An Islamic scholar who initiated a mediation bid between the government and Muslim militants said Thursday he hoped to broker a political solution to the conflict which has cost more than 130 lives.

Muhammad Salim al-'Awwa, a theology professor at Cairo's 'Ayn Shams University, said the effort went beyond the immediate aim of stopping the violence which has swept Egypt since March 1992.

He started the peace effort in January but it was only revealed on Tuesday by the interior minister, General Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa.

Musa told a meeting of the ruling National Democratic Party he would "not hesitate to take the slightest opportunity" to open a dialogue with the militants and bring stability back to the country.

He had met a group of Islamic intellectuals acting as intermediaries last week.

Al-'Awwa told AFP he had formed a mediation team with Shaykh Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi, a prominent preacher, and a moderate Islamic writer, Muhammad 'Imarah.

Asked if the main aim was to achieve a halt to violence in exchange for an easing of the police crackdown on Muslim fundamentalists, al-'Awwa said the effort was "deeper and more important than that."

"The aim of this mediation goes well beyond an improvement in prison conditions in exchange for a temporary halt to the violence," he said.

"We are working for a global deal to create a democratic Egyptian society where dialogue between different political tendencies will replace violence, and the majority will choose at the ballot box in free elections clear of fraud."

He said they would press on with their mediation attempt, and the killing of a police general and two other policemen last Sunday in southern Egypt would only spur on their efforts.

The violence was caused by an "absence of democracy" and carried out by not only the fundamentalists but the state and its institutions, he charged.

Al-'Awwa regretted the mediation attempt had become public, refusing to give any details of progress so far. However, he insisted the militants were led from within Egypt and not abroad.

The al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] has led the fundamentalist campaign which has left more than 130 people dead in the past year, including militants, tourists, police and Coptic Christians.

Lawyers for 49 suspected Muslim militants on trial in a military court called Wednesday for "reconciliation" between the fundamentalists and police to halt the violence.

Editorial Asks if Parliamentarians Have Terrorist Ties

NC1504100293 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 12 Apr 93 p1

[Editorial: To Protect Egypt: How Do You Cut Off Fingers of Terrorism?]

[Text] What does terrorism want with Egypt and what are the terrorists planning? If the objective is to scare the Egyptian people and destroy Egypt's economy and future, this will not be achieved, because events only harden the Egyptian people and crises strengthen its cohesion and unity.

There is no argument that the Egyptian people reject this bloody method that chose death, explosions, bloodshed, and spreading chaos and anxiety among peaceful citizens.

The terrorist scheme's objective is "continuity," that is, continuing and spreading acts of violence to give the people no time to catch their breath. Terrorist actions continue everywhere all the time until panic spreads everywhere.

The Egyptian people have almost certainly never known such a method of political action, even if there were political objectives behind it. The sons of the Nile have lived in peace, accord, and harmony for thousands of years. This confirms that there are foreign fingers behind everything that is happening in Egypt, whether they are Iranian fingers operating indirectly or fingers that trained in Sudan having operated and trained in Afghanistan.

Certainly, without these fingers, this scheme would not have found it easy to spread so far from those sick people with ulterior motives, which prompts us to ask, although we can't believe it: Do members of the People's Assembly from Upper Egypt have suspicious ties with these terrorists? If so, and we hope it is not, why does the government keep silent and why does it not announce the truth so that the people can discover who is with them in the trench of peace and who is trying to incite bloodshed and terrorism?

Four Caught Trying To Free Imprisoned 'Extremists'

NC1504131993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1219 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Cairo, 15 Apr (MENA)—State Security investigators have detained four terrorists who were planning to smuggle

extremist group members out of Abu Za'bal Prison. AL-AHRAM AL-MASA'I reported today that security bodies found the four defendants with maps of the prison and roads to it along with leaflets that they tried to smuggle to the imprisoned extremists. The paper says the authorities have started interrogating the defendants.

Awqaf Minister Declares New Plan Against Corruption

NC1504090193 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Apr 93 p 6

[Hisham al-'Ajami report]

[Excerpt] Awqaf Minister Dr. Muhammad 'Ali Mahjub has declared that all state bodies are seeking to achieve two goals: First, eliminating terrorism and the corrupt ones who allegedly belong to Islam, and second, protecting Islam from the wickedness of these individuals so that Islam will have a message of love, peace, and security for the whole world. He pointed out that, beginning today, the Awqaf Ministry and all other religious institutions have drawn up a new plan ushering in a new stage in society. The plan will be carried out by preachers, ulema, and the clergy of the al-Azhar Mosque and the Awqaf Ministry. The new plan is essentially based on responding to the issues raised by the deviants and terrorists in the name of religion and unjustly attributed to Islam. He noted that these issues will be the main theme of the Friday sermons, lessons in mosques, and lectures at mass gatherings throughout Egypt. He warned the preachers against laxity in implementing the new plan, saying that anyone who cannot go ahead with it can request exemption and his request will be granted promptly. Dr. Mahjub made this statement during a meeting with all Awqaf Ministry leaders and ulema, and Greater Cairo's preachers and prayer leaders at the al-Fath mosque in the Ramsis Square yesterday. [passage omitted]

Libya

Anniversary of al-Qadhdhafi's Speech on 5 Points Marked

LD1604103493 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0915 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Zuwarah, 16 Apr—Masses of the communes in the Great Jamahiriyah yesterday marked the 20th anniversary of the brother leader of the revolution's historic Zuwarah speech delivered on the occasion of the prophet's birthday anniversary in the town of Zuwarah, in which he proclaimed the people's revolution; thus laying down the foundation stone for the revolutionary changes which have been achieved through the establishment of people's authority and the starting of the era of the masses. On a day like this, the brother leader of the revolution announced the beginning of the people's revolution by announcing the five points, which were:

1. Suspending all the laws that would obstruct the revolutionary change.

2. Purging the country from the sick [al-murza].

3. Freedom, full freedom, for the masses of the people, and no freedom for the people's enemies.

4. Proclaiming the administrative revolution.

5. Proclaiming the cultural revolution.

These points came to crystallize the goals of the great fatih revolution as an all encompassing revolution that would respond to the Libyan Arab people's call for change and purgation. [passage omitted]

Morocco

New Director of National Security Appointed

LD1304170893 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Hassan II, flanked by His Royal Highness Prince Sidi Mohamed and His Royal Highness Prince Maoulay Rachid, this afternoon at the throne hall in the royal palace in Rabat received the former governor of Tangier, Ahmed el-Midaoui, and appointed him as the new director general of national security. [passage omitted]

Further on Appointment

LD1404173793 Rabat MAP in English 1232 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 14 (MAP)—King Hassan II Tuesday appointed Ahmed el-Midaoui, former governor of Tangier, director general of National Security.

Addressing him, the sovereign said the exercise of responsibility is at the same time delicate and easy. The task is delicate because there are more social and educational problems in developed and in developing countries alike and because modern societies have changed and so have problems, King Hassan II said adding that this is not however a reason to consider the task as difficult or impossible for in Morocco the family cell has been preserved and in addition there is the cell of the one who teaches us the Koran and the cell of the professor. They all work in the frame of law and of mutual respect and assistance and this eases the task of the one in charge of security, King Hassan II said.

After he pointed out that Morocco has always been a state of law, a fact that enabled it to reach other parts of the world and to build up civilizations, the sovereign urged the new director general to see to the respect of the law to preserve the interests of the state, of groups and of individuals and to chose his close aides among honest people.

He also urged him to closely cooperate with the Ministries of the Interior and Justice, with the gendarmerie and auxiliary forces and with the Studies and Documentation Department.

The audience was attended by Crown Prince Sidi Mohammed and Prince Moulay Rachid and several cabinet members.

King Hassan Receives Sudanese Foreign Minister

LD1604062993 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] His Majesty King Hassan II received this evening in the royal palace in Rabat the Sudanese Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Husayn Sulayman Abu-Salih, who was sent as an envoy to his Majesty the King by the Sudanese president. He was accompanied by his country's ambassador to Rabat, Mr. Yusif Abu 'Aqila and by Ambassador Director of the Arab Department in the Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Mr. Faruq Mustafa 'Ali.

This meeting was attended by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation Mr. Abdellatif Filali, and Adviser to His Majesty Mr. Abdelhadi Boutaleb.

Minister on Building Partnership With EC

LD1304124293 Rabat MAP in English 1216 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Text] Rabat, Apr. 13 (MAP)—The Moroccan Government's role is to provide adequate framework for a new partnership between Morocco and the EC, while leaving to enterprises room to undertake autonomous actions, said Minister of Foreign Trade, External Investments and Tourism Hassan Abou Ayoub.

Talking to the Tangier-based Medi I radio, the minister explained how Morocco is endeavoring to diversify its industry and improve the quality and efficiency of exportation-destined products. To face problems hindering development in Morocco, we have to have a competitive and attracting economic system in tune with the world economy and able to drain capital both from inside and outside the country, he added.

Most economic operations in Morocco are partly financed by a European partner and there are few projects entirely financed by foreign economic operators, Abou Ayoub said. Positive competition should be encouraged and Morocco's policy of adjustment and growth is based on raising the competition among local enterprises.

Kuwait

Amir Honors President Bush at Dinner Banquet

LD1504053693 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 2100 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] His highness the amir of Kuwait tonight threw a dinner banquet at Bayan Palace in honor of the great guest of the State of Kuwait, former U.S. President George Bush, and his accompanying delegation. His highness the amir on this occasion draped the man of principles, George Bush, with the medal of Great Mubarak in appreciation and gratitude of the people of Kuwait to his excellency for his significant role in the liberation of Kuwait.

His highness the amir delivered a speech at the beginning of which he welcomed, in the name of all Kuwaiti people, His Excellency former U.S. President George Bush to the liberated soil of Kuwait. His highness said that his expression of the sentiments of affection, recognition, gratitude, and friendship toward the great guest of Kuwait, the man of principles, George Bush, is an expression of the feeling of an entire people. They do not forget that the great guest made an effective contribution in the liberation of their land. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Ukrainian Prime Minister, Delegation Visit

Meet With King Fahd

LD1504124893 Riyadh SPA in English 1215 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 15, SPA—Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz Al-Sa'ud received the Ukrainian Prime Minister Mr. Leonid Kuchma and his accompanying delegation at the royal court, al-Yamama palace here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Kuchma conveyed to the Saudi monarch the geetings of the Ukrainian president.

The royal audience was attended by Prince Sultan Bin 'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy premier, minister of defense, aviation and inspector general and members of the delegation accompanying the Ukrainian official.

The meeting was also attended by Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, Ibrahim al-Ankari, the special advisor of the King, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Iz al-Khuwaytir the minister of education, Hisham Nazir, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources and Dr. Ambassador 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khoja.

The Ukranian prime minister, who was accompanied by a high-level delegation including the Deputy Premier Vasyl Yevtukhov, foreign minister, Anatoliy Zlenko, arrived in Riyadh on Tuesday and was greeted at the King Khalid international airport by Prince Sa'ud, Al-Faysal, Ambassador Khoja and many officials.

Confers With Foreign Minister

LD1504125493 Riyadh SPA in English 1218 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Riyadh, April 15, SPA—The visiting Ukranian Prime Minister, Leonid Kuchma received at his residency, the Conference Palace in Riyadh last night Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Nizar Madani, director of the western department at the Foreign Ministry and Ambassador 'Abd-al-'Aziz Khoja.

Later, the prime minister of Ukraine received 'Abd-al-'Aziz al- Zamil, the minister of industry and electricity.

Earlier on Wednesday, the Ukrainian prime minister paid a visit to the compound of the Planning Ministry where he was welcomed by Dr. 'Abd-al-Wahhab a;-'Attar, the minister of planning and senior officials of the ministry.

During the visit, the prime minister was briefed on the achievements accomplished by the development plans in the Kingdom and the marvelous and successful development schemes set-up in various parts of the country.

Later in the day, Mr. Kuchma visiteed the King Sa;ud University where he was welcomed by the rector of the university, Dr. Ahmad al- Dhebayb.

Agreement Signed on Relations

LD1504145493 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Riyadh, 15 Apr (SPA)—The foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al Faysal, received in his office this morning His Excellency Anatoliy Zlenko, the foreign minister of Ukraine. The two sides discussed ways and means of developing bilateral relations. They also discussed international issues of common interest.

The special protocol on setting up diplomatic relations between the two countries was signed after the meeting. [passage omitted]

Explosions, Troop Deployment in Baghdad Reported

NC1504174593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1645 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Several violent explosions have occurred in Baghdad causing heavy casualties and damage. In a Nicosia-datelined report, REUTER said that Iraqi security forces raided several homes in a search to find those who caused the explosions. REUTER reported that the Iraqi forces detained senior regime officials and executed them following an attempt to kidnap Iraqi Interior Minister Watban Ibrahim, who is a step-brother of Saddam Husayn.

REUTER reported that tension and disturbances are rife in Baghdad. The Iraqi regime deployed 30,000 troops around Baghdad to control the approaches and outskirts of the city as resentment and wrath against the regime are increasing along with attacks against its forces and agents.

Citing a statement by the Iraqi Unified National Congress, REUTER reported that the Iraqi regime's Republican Guards, which protect the regime's leader, are currently surrounding a section of Baghdad. These forces have executed several officials, including former Interior Minister Samir 'Abd-al-Wahhab al-Shaykhali.

Security Reportedly on 'Full Alert'

LD1504170893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1546 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Tehran, 15 Apr—Iraqi opposition sources here today said that the security and party bodies of the Iraqi regime have been put on a state of full alert after a series of military operations carried out by opposition groups in Baghdad and the southern region. In a statement received by KUNA, the sources said that the operations included the headquarters and elements of the ruling Ba'th Party and security bodies, following which the Iraqi regime deployed a large number of armed troops around sensitive centers and places which have been targeted by the opposition.

The sources pointed out that the Iraqi opposition laid an ambush at the beginning of this month for a member of the leadership of the Karradah branch of the ruling Ba'th Party and killed him on the spot. Another group of revolutionaries carried out an operation in which they attacked the official in charge of the security apparatus in the 'Ubaydi district of Baghdad and killed him.

The sources said that the opposition laid an ambush for Sa'id Hakim, candidate member of the regional command of the ruling Ba'th Party; his car and his bodyguards' car were attacked but he managed to escaped leaving behind the bodies of three of his bodyguards who were killed at the place where the attack took place.

The sources added that 70 of the government's troops were killed in an attack by the opposition forces in the marshland area in southern Iraq. The sources pointed out that the Iraqi regime's authorities arrested a number of Iraqi citizens after these operations.

Regime Said To Kill General; Situation 'Deteriorating'

NC1504184093 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Our correspondent in Baghdad has sent us an exclusive report on the deteriorating situation in the areas under the Iraqi regime's control. He said that an armed group on the night of 7 April killed Staff Brigadier General Pilot Jabbar 'Asi 'Abd-al- Rahman at his home in the al-Kazimiyah area of Baghdad. On the night of 10 April, another group killed ('Ali al-Kashi), National Assembly member and director of the (?Zalalah) establishment, in front of his home in the Ur quarter.

Our correspondent reports that a police post came under fire on 11 April and three policemen were killed. Leaflets urging people to rise up against the regime were distributed in the Madinat al- Thawrah near Square 55.

On the regime's repressive measures, our correspondent says that security forces have imposed a curfew on the al-Thawrah, al-'Amil, al-Shu'lah, and al-Fudayliyah quarters for three days. They have detained dozens of citizens.

On the economic situation, our correspondent stresses that car theft is increasing, and according to police reports, 172 cars were stolen this month. The prices of main foodstuffs have soared. The price of one kg of sugar has reached 25 dinars; tea, 105 dinars; butter, 37 dinars; and rice, 18 dinars.

Network To Assassinate Opposition Figures Uncovered

NC1504152293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] A well-informed Iraqi opposition source has affirmed that the leader and members of a network recruited by the ostracized dictator's intelligence service to assassinate leading Iraqi opposition figures, including Major General Hasan al-Naqib, have been arrested.

In a statement to AL-HAYAH newspaper today, the source said that the team, which is led by a person named Farhad, was arrested after the opposition monitored the movements of Farhad, who was trying to infiltrate Iraqi opposition ranks and recruit agents to blow up opposition headquarters and assassinate a number of leading members. The source noted that the network's activities were monitored for two months, adding that the head of the team lives in Irbil but used to visit Mosul to contact the local leader of the regime's intelligence service to receive instructions.

The source said 15 members of the team were arrested possessing hand grenades, timers, and poison. The source added that Farhad was also in contact with 'Abd-al-Salam 'Annaz, former official in charge of the

Ba'th Party in Dahuk, who is responsible for bomb attempts and operations against several Iraqi opposition figures. The source added that the ostracized dictator's regime has ordered several operations against the Iraqi opposition since the start of its activities in northern Iraq. In this respect, an opposition bureau in Zakho and another bureau for the Iraqi Independent Authority [al-Hay'ah al-'Iraqiyah al-Mustaqillah] in Dahuk have been blown up.

Saddam Visits Baghdad Municipality, Briefed on Work

JN1504192093 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, has visited the Municipality of Baghdad. Upon arrival, his excellency was welcomed by [words indistinct]. His excellency the leader president, may God protect him, was briefed by the mayor of Baghdad on the tasks shouldered by the departments of Baghdad Municipality. He was also briefed on the municipality's work and new techniques which it has adopted in accordance with the instructions leader President Saddam Husayn gave during his previous visit to the municipality.

The leader president, may God watch over him, gave valuable and important instructions to make the beloved capital more beautiful and make available the best services to the esteemed citizens.

Afterward, leader President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, left the municipality. He was cordially seen off the mayor of Baghdad.

Paper Warns of Iranian Armament Drive

JN1004160293 Baghdad INA in English 1210 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Text] Baghdad, Apr 10. INA—AL-'IRAQ daily for today warned of the danger posed by the Iranian armament efforts to security and stability in the Middle East and Asia in general.

The daily said in a news report that Iran's strategic armament plan was aimed at creating a favourable climate to realize the dream of the Persian empire to provoke tension and fear among the neighbouring states.

It added that the top-level Iranian delegation currently visiting the North Korean capital Pyongyang came within the frame of Tehran arrangements to diversify the sources of its arms to build its arsenal of mass destruction weapons.

The daily quoted well-informed diplomatic and press sources as saying that the Iranian delegation headed by Huseyn Mantiqi [name as received]; official in charge of the Iranian war industries was negotiating with Korean officials to buy 150 medium-range missiles.

The sources expected Iran to receive the Korean missiles by next July.

Iran recently signed an agreement with Russia under which the latter would supply Iran with two nuclear reactors with their full expertise.

It is well known that following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, Tehran signed with the blessing of Washington and some Arabs; contracts with nuclear expert and scientist working for the former Soviet nuclear program.

'Sources' Comment on Deportees' March, Shelling

TA1604103293 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Report by army affairs correspondent Netan'el Semrik]

[Text] This is not an official reaction, but the defense establishment and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] are closely following the movement of the deportees southward. Security sources have made it clear that under no circumstances will the Palestinians be permitted to reach the Zummarayya crossing point. Forces in the area have been deployed to prevent that from happening. After the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists were deported, it was reported from Lebanon that the IDF had taken various measures near the junction to prevent the deportees moving southward.

Today's IDF shelling was not aimed at hitting the deportees. There is no such intention, the sources said. It was designed to deter them and warn the deportees that Israel stands firm in its position.

Reinforcements in North

TA1604084893 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 16 Apr 93 p A1

[Report by Eytan Rabin and Menahem Horowitz]

[Excerpt] A senior military source confirmed yesterday that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has reinforced its troops in south Lebanon and along the northern border in view of the escalation there over the past few days. Nevertheless, he stressed that there is no intention of deploying additional weapons in the area.

Military sources along the northern border have expressed concern that the terrorist organizations will try to bring about an additional escalation of the situation in the region in the coming days, prior to the resumption of the political negotiations on the future of the Golan Heights. The IDF, the SLA [South Lebanese Army], and the local population along the confrontation line have been put on the highest alert. [passage omitted]

Aide Claims Rabin Agrees to International Supervision

TA1504175593 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1730 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Gad Ben-Ari, Prime Minister Rabin's media adviser, this evening confirmed that Prime Minister Rabin told President Mubarak in their meeting yesterday that Israel will not oppose an international supervision over human rights in the territories in the framework of the package of gestures that Israel is offering to the Palestinians.

Rabin Briefs Labor Bureau on Closure, Mubarak Talks

TA1504160493 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpt] Addressing Labor's bureau, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated this evening that the closure in the territories attained its security goal and that Israel intends to invest 200 to 250 million shekels to create jobs and build an infrastructure in the territories. Our party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel reports:

Labor's bureau convened today for its weekly session at the party's headquarters at 110 Hayarqon Street in Tel Aviv. Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin opened the session with a security-political briefing and a report about his talks yesterday with President Husni Mubarak. Noting he was optimistic about the Arab delegations reporting to the talks on 20 April, Rabin stated: I told President Mubarak that we are through with the gestures and that from now on we will deal with the substance of the issues.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1500 GMT on 15 April adds: "Rabin noted that President Mubarak told him yesterday that he had informed the Syrians and the Palestinians that preconditions for the resumption of the talks were out of the question."]

Although a nice atmosphere prevailed over the meeting, Rabin did not portray himself as a winner or as having scored some big achievement because the Arab delegations have not yet officially announced that they will be coming to the talks. The prime minister emphasized: I am optimistic that they will come to the talks, but I will definitely not say anything until a formal announcement has been made by the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Damascus.

The prime minister then proceeded to discuss the security and economic aspects of the closure, as well as its social aspect in terms of the reluctance of jobless Israelis to do menial work.

Referring to the security aspect, the prime minister told the members of Labor's bureau: I have no doubt that the closure attained its security as well as other goals and illustrated what a real closure means. Many defense officials objected to it, but today they agree about its unequivocal contribution to security, not just inside Israel but also in the territories; to wit, the major drop in the number of terror attacks and riots. Rabin added: I do not want to portray it as an eternal panacea, but it clipped terror and the illusion of the Palestinians that Israel was running away from Gaza without an arrangement and will probably encourage them to recognize the fact that nothing can be attained from Israel without negotiations.

As for the economic aspect, the government plans to invest 200 to 250 million shekels in infrastructure and the creation of jobs for Arabs in the territories in the near future, he said.

Concluding his remarks, Mr. Rabin remarked: The closure exposed some grim phenomena in our midst, such as cheap labor, an emerging culture of unemployment, and a culture of abuse of social legislation designed to help those who have real problems. We will stop this abuse through legislation, the prime minister asserted. [passage omitted]

Rabinovich on U.S. Role in Talks, Syrian Formula

TA1604055193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Interview with Itamar Rabinovich, Israel's ambassador in Washington and head of the negotiating team with Syria, by Arye Golan, on 15 April in Washington "after consultations at the U.S. State Department"—recorded]

[Text] [Golan] Ambassador Rabinovich, when the peace talks are resumed here, will the Americans present their own proposals in order to bridge the gaps, and did you hear any U.S. ideas prior to your departure for Jerusalem?

[Rabinovich] The answer to your first question is negative. The Americans will not raise proposals to bridge the gaps and will not put such proposals on the negotiating table. I have already referred to the definition of the role of active partner—a facilitator and not a mediator, and definitely not an arbitrator. I think the Americans understand that the presentation of proposals to bridge gaps means arbitration, which is unacceptable to us and to them. The Americans talk to both sides, and they raise ideas. We make sure that talking with both sides does not become indirect mediation, but we do that within the framework of our friendly ties and cooperation with the United States. We are definitely prepared to hear what the Americans think about what might become a fruitful area between us and the Palestinians, while maintaining our sovereign right to sometimes accept an idea or proposal and sometimes to say our policies differ.

[Golan] Amb. Rabinovich, President Mubarak said that he heard from Hafiz al-Asad that he is prepared to accept an everything-for-everything deal. Are we also ready for something like that?

[Rabinovich] No, we have two reservations about that approach. First, when there are direct negotiations between us and Syria, there is no reason why the Syrians cannot tell us directly in the clearest possible way what they think. Second, a general, vague formula of the everything-for-everything kind is too general and too vague. We are discussing very sensitive issues, which involve our national security and affect large sectors of the Israeli public. We have the desire, time, and patience to sit down with the Syrians and hear from them things in great detail and not to be carried away by such generalized slogans.

[Golan] Does the fact that the Israelis will be sitting opposite Faysal al-Husayni here next week mean the issue of Jerusalem will also be put on the negotiating table?

[Rabinovich] Definitely not. We said that al-Husayni's anticipated participation in the talks is the expression of a policy that aspires to strengthen the Palestinian delegation, to enhance it, and to make these negotiations more pragmatic. Faysal al-Husayni has been a registered resident of the West Bank since 1967, and the fact that he is also a resident of Jerusalem is marginal in this context. It would be a mistake for the Palestinians or anybody else to stress that point instead of the main issue, which is that his joining the talks is aimed at giving them substance and strengthening the powers of his delegation.

Delegation To Show 'New Flexibility' Toward Palestinians

TA1604080693 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Apr 93 p 1

[Report by Hemi Shalev]

[Excerpts] Israel will evince new flexibility in the peace talks regarding various fundamental issues pertaining to the interim arrangements with the Palestinians, including control over the land and Palestinian legislative powers. This was decided in a special meeting Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin held yesterday with the members of the delegation to the negotiations with the Palestinians. [passage omitted]

The delegation members discussed the positions to be presented to the Palestinians in accordance with the list presented to Israel by Secretary of State Warren Christopher, which has been discussed with the United States over the past few weeks. The issues noted in the list are: control over land and water, legislative powers, human rights, elections in the territories, and the composition and powers of the autonomy council.

The delegation will also display flexibility with regard to the name and number of members of the autonomy council. In the last round of talks in October, Israel agreed to increase the number of council members from 15 to 30 and proposed to name it the "Executive Functional Council." Political sources stressed yesterday that on this issue, too, the delegation "will be open to suggestions" from the Palestinians.

With regard to control over the land, Israel will be prepared to revise its original proposal that state land be under joint control. Israel has proposed to the Americans that limited powers to enact primary legislation be entrusted to the entity liaising between the autonomy council and the Israeli Government. [passage omitted]

'Partial List' of Concessions to Palestinian Side

TA1604090293 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 16 Apr 93 p 4

[Report by Washington correspondent Ron Ben-Yishay]

[Text] When the ninth round of peace talks gets under way next Tuesday, the PLO's top leadership and its delegates to the negotiations will be able to take credit

for an impressive achievement. The package of concessions and gestures they managed to extort from Israel and the United States in exchange for the Palestinians' return to the talks would make even veteran diplomats proud.

Following is the list of gestures and concessions to be made by Israel:

—A commitment to allow the return of all the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] deportees by September 1993.

—Agreement to allow 50 longtime deportees (expelled from 1967 onward) to return to the territories.

—An official and public Israeli declaration (by the prime minister and the foreign minister) that deportation is a digression from Israel's policy in the territories. Consequently, Israel does not intend to use it in the future, except in cases of emergency.

—Agreement, in contravention with the accord reached prior to the Madrid conference, that Faysal al-Husayni from East Jerusalem be an official member and perhaps even the head of the Palestinian delegation to the negotiations.

—Agreement to active American involvement in the negotiations, including the presentation of original proposals.

—An explicit Israeli announcement that UN Resolutions 242 and 338 are applicable to the permanent arrangement with the Palestinians. Consequently, it follows that the autonomy is a temporary arrangement and that the permanent arrangement will talk about Israel ceding territories—just as in the case of Syria—to be handed over to Palestinian-Arab sovereignty.

—Agreement to expand the powers of the Arab administrative council, which will run the affairs of the autonomy in a way similar to a government, but with limited powers.

—The Arab administrative council will have more control over the land in the territories.

—Broader powers to the Arab judiciary in the framework of the autonomy.

—Israeli agreement—if the Palestinians so desire—to hold elections in the territories at an earlier date, even before the end of the negotiations on autonomy.

—Gradual lifting of the closure in the territories (after the Palestinians return to the talks).

—Improvement of the quality of life of the Arab residents through the abolishment of many bureaucratic restrictions imposed by the Civil Administration.

—Release of security prisoners.

—Cancellation of part of the restrictions on youths wishing to cross the Jordan River bridges.

—Gradual dismantlement of some IDF [Israel Defense Forces] positions in refugee camps and towns.

—Direct Israeli investment to create jobs for Palestinians in the territories.

—Paying salaries to Palestinians who are forced into unemployment because of the closure.

—Encouragement of foreign investments in the territories.

—Facilitation of procedures for Palestinian entrepreneurs wishing to invest in the territories.

And this is just a partial list.

Delegation Head Notes Expectations From Peace Talks

TA1504174493 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Interview with Elyaqim Rubinstein, head of the Israeli delegation to the peace talks with the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor; in Rubinstein's office on 15 April—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Rubinstein] First of all, our main expectation from the peace talks is to advance the negotiations—and there are many things which can be and should be done. Unfortunately, no negotiations were held for quite a few months. The time has come to resume them and to promote a vast diversity of functional and substantial issues. We definitely do have something to talk about.

[Ganor] What guidelines has the prime minister given the Israeli delegation leaving for Washington?

[Rubinstein] The foremost guideline given to the delegation is to negotiate, to maintain the momentum of the negotiations, and to promote them. Our basic positions are known. Most of the duties of the Civil Administration should be transferred to the Palestinian council to be established, while Israel will retain responsibility for security; the Jewish settlements; and the Jews in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. The options for a permanent arrangement cannot be shut off and should remain open within the framework of these basic positions which, of course, encompass numerous and complex issues. We are supposed to act on the basis of these basic positions, and we will try to do just that.

[Ganor] Have Israel's positions and proposals been updated in the interval between the last and the upcoming rounds of talks?

[Rubinstein] We keep working on them. We were not through working on them in the last round of talks; they still required work. For example, we proposed to enter negotiations on very important functional issues, such as water, but this was not done. We are constantly drafting proposals, but a great deal depends on the other side—and this must be said candidly. In other words, there must be a two-way street leading to an arrangement. The

two sides must take action, and we are waiting to hear what the other side is prepared to do.

[Ganor] Will the closure in the territories affect the course of the negotiations?

[Rubinstein] One must definitely not forget what brought it about. It did not stem from a desire to give the population a hard time but rather to defend our security. Thank God, the closure has been very helpful in that respect. As for the population, as is known, efforts are under way in several areas. First of all, registered workers with vitally important jobs have been issued permits, a few thousand so far. Secondly, we have set aside a considerable budget to create jobs in the territories. Other things are being done, and we very much hope that the closure will not affect the atmosphere and the talks.

I would like to add this: As a negotiator, my colleagues and I are hurt that the Palestinian public was not properly advised of many issues and proposals we negotiated and put on the table. The message relayed to this public was one of gloom with nothing happening and no progress being made. There is nothing farther from the truth. It is very important that the Palestinian public should know that the Israeli proposals—if accepted—will significantly change the way they run their lives and that they would be ill advised to miss out on these opportunities. Although it is our duty to uphold Israel's interests, there is a great deal that the Palestinian side could attain.

Plan Presented on Permanent Closure in Territories

TA1504170793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Knesset Members [MK's] Avraham Burg and Hagay Merom have suggested to the prime minister to turn the closure into a permanent policy. In order to implement this they consolidated a plan for bringing about a separation between Israel and the territories. Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that Burg's and Merom's separation plan includes setting up fences, patrol roads, checkpoints, and other elements of domestic security. The presence and deployment of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will not change during the period of the separation. A ministerial committee will be established for presenting recommendations to the government regarding the boundaries which will constitute the autonomy's political borders. Checkpoints will be set up on the main roads, the passage of private transportation from the territories to Israel will be permitted only with special authorization, and work permits will be given to essential workers only.

Abu-Jabir Leaves for Damascus Coordination Meeting

JN1604114293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir has left Amman for Damascus to attend the coordination meetings of Arab countries participating in the Middle East peace process.

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, the PLO, and Egypt would discuss the outcome of their latest negotiations with the United States vis-a-vis the peace talks. They will also discuss the resumption of the Arab-Israeli bilateral talks due in Washington on the 20th of this month.

The talks are stalled due to the israeli expulsion of hundreds of Palestinians from the occupied Arab territories last December.

U.S. Fleet Bans Ships From Entering Port of al-'Aqabah

JN1604090493 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 16 Apr 93 p 2

[Text] Al-'Aqabah—Shipping sources at the port of al-'Aqabah have said that inspection operations by the U.S. fleet in the Tiran Straits have recently increased and are back to what they were like during the Gulf crisis, when they were imposing an economic embargo on fraternal Iraq and inspecting ships heading in and out of al-'Aqabah port.

The sources said that on 7 April, the Sudanese ship al-Abyad was carrying 2,700 tons of various goods and containers from European ports. The U.S. naval forces refused to allow the ship to enter al-'Aqabah and to load Jordanian exports in 50 containers heading for various Red Sea ports under the premise that it was hard to get access to all the containers in the ship. All official bodies have been informed in order to help the ship enter the port of al- 'Aqabah. However, all attempts failed and after waiting four days, the ship had to head for Port Sudan to drop off its load of Sudanese goods and then return to al-'Aqabah next week in a second attempt to enter the port. On 14 April, the Norwegian ship Windfield was headed for the Port of 'al-'Aqabah to unload 5,624 tons of various European goods, most of which was paper to be used in printing Jordanian newspapers and magazines. The U.S. inspection team again banned it from entering the Port of al-'Aqabah for a similar reason. The team asked to inspect every parcel and roll of paper on the ship, which is impossible. Every attempt to allow the ship to enter al-'Aqabah failed and the ship had to go to Jeddah to unload its Saudi cargo and thewn make another attempt to return to al-'Aqabah.

The sources said that these practices by the inspection authorities will encourage Jordanian importers to use neighboring ports to ship their goods to avoid harrassment, delays, and paying extra fees.

Labor Minister on Job Opportunities in Gulf States

JN1404112993 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 14 Apr 93 pp 1, 22

[By Nabil Ghazzawi]

[Text] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, minister of labor and head of the 20th session of the Arab Labor Conference which recently ended its meetings in Amman, has said that on the sidelines of the conference, meetings were held with a number of ministers who headed delegations from participating Arab countries. These ministers said that inasmuch as Jordan expressed its thanks to and appreciation for the care given to Jordanian expatriates in their countries, the governments of these countries also appreciate and value the role played by these Jordanian expatriates in their countries.

Al-Kabariti told AL-DUSTUR that during side meetings, the labor ministers of Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Bahrain emphasized the willingess of their respective ministries to open the doors of employment for many Jordanians, especially in the educational fields and in some technical fields.

In another development, Gulf diplomatic sources told AL-DUSTUR that the Arab Labor Conference opened wide prospects for Arab cooperation and contribution by Jordanians in the Gulf states' development process. These sources said that matters are heading toward a detente between Jordan and its sisterly Arab Gulf states, particularly in all labor and economic aspects.

Buwayz Returns From Qatar, PRC; Views Peace Talks

NC1504133493 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1145 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Report by Khalil Fulayhan from Beirut Airport]

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz returned to Beirut this afternoon after two official visits to Qatar and China. He summed up his visits as follows:

[Begin recording] [Buwayz] We first visited Qatar at the invitation of the Qatari foreign minister. We held talks with the amir, the heir apparent, and the foreign minister. Discussions focused on bilateral and inter-Arab ties, both political and economic. Undoubtedly, we attached the required importance to the need to close Arab ranks. We also touched on issues of common interest. We look forward to the Qatari foreign minister's visit to Lebanon so that our talks can materialize in the form of a comprehensive agreement or protocol to cover various aspects of bilateral economic cooperation. We also discussed the return of the Qatari brothers to Lebanon, the return of Qatari investors, and the property of Qataris in Lebanon. We agreed on a common view that will materialize, as I said earlier, during the expected visit to Lebanon by the Qatari foreign minister before the summer.

The visit to the People's Republic of China also had a political and economic nature. I was accompanied by an economic delegation headed by Jacques Sarraf, head of the Industrialists Society. The meetings with Chinese officials gave us a chance to discuss political issues. As you know, China is a permanent member of the Security Council and a constant advocate of the Arab cause. Its position on Arab rights has always been firm and clear. We also discussed ways to activate economic ties now that China is experiencing a radical development toward stimulating its economy, opening it to the world, and building a market economy or relatively free market. Undoubtedly, China is a major pillar in Asia and we believe that in the next few years, it will play a major, pivotal role. The economic delegation held talks on several topics, on which the head of the Industrialists Society can elaborate. A Chinese delegation is expected to visit Lebanon next month, God willing. A general protocol covering all aspects of bilateral ties will be reached.

[Unidentified correspondent] We are at the door to a new round of peace talks and a meeting of the countries concerned will be held in Damascus tomorrow. What can be said about Lebanon's participation in this round?

[Buwayz] As I have always stated, we will not make a separate decision on the peace talks. We would rather wait for tomorrow's meeting in Damascus of countries concerned with the talks. The unity of Arabs rank, regardless of the position to be adopted, is essential. A unified and clear-cut position on the Arab-Israeli conflict, regardless of what this position will be, will guarantee Arab rights as long as unity of rank is secured. Lebanon will play, as always, a conciliatory role among the Arab parties should the need arise. The position to be adopted in Damascus tomorrow will be based on an accurate assessment, clear-cut vision, and absolute solidarity.

[Correspondent] Do you expect the Damascus meeting to lead to an agreement to participate in the ninth round of talks?

[Buwayz] There will be a thorough assessment that will weigh up the pros and cons of everything. I believe it is premature for me to talk about it now. [end recording]

Defense Minister Says Army Ready To Deploy in South

NC1604083393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that the Lebanese Army is ready and able to deploy in the south if asked to do so.

In an interview with the Kuwaiti paper AL-WATAN, he said that he expects Israel to launch several attacks on Lebanese territories on the eve of the start of the ninth round of negotiations. He added that the people will be more capable of confronting the occupation when they are satisfied with the domestic situation.

Says Only Resistance Can Confront Occupation

NC1504132093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that should the peace talks fail, we will all become resistance fighters. He said there is no way to confront the occupation politically and militarily except through the pressure of the resistance alone. The state, he added, cannot stop the people resisting the occupation by every available means.

In an interview with the magazine AL-BILAD, Dallul said the Defense Ministry is trying to regain its command over the Jazzin Battalion and has discharged those who deal with the occupation troops and who fail to obey military orders. He called for a plan to remain steadfast on every official and popular level, because the future will be serious. He said that when the people are at ease at home, they are better able to face the occupation.

Deportees To Stage 'March of No Return'

NC1504124093 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1130 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees have decided to stage a march of no return [masirat al-la 'awdah] toward the Zummarayya crossing point in view of the world's indifference to their cause. The deportees made this decision during a meeting they held at their camp this morning. The meeting was followed by a news conference by their spokesman, Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi. At the news conference, al-Rantisi said: At a time when Rabin is dictating his will in full, as he did in Egypt yesterday, and

the Palestinian delegation submits to Rabin's will, and while the Security Council has been silent for a full four months over Israel's refusal to implement Resolution 799, we have decided to carry our shrouds and head for the Zummarayya crossing point tomorrow. If the entire world, whether Arabs or otherwise, abandons us, we will meet God's fate in Zummarayya. We ask our people to take good care of our children and our kinfolk in Palestine. Al-Rantisi added: I believe that the march will expose the Palestinian delegation, which is retreating everyday and fails to live up to its responsibility regarding the Palestinian cause, before the Palestinian people. This delegation does not represent anybody in Palestine, as Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi has stated very clearly. I tell the delegation members: What does going to Washington mean if you do not represent anyone?

Arab 'Betrayal' Denounced

NC1604065593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0530 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] In the Marj al-Zuhur camp, the Palestinian deportees have denounced their betrayal by the Arabs, who have announced that they are willing to resume negotiations with the usurping entity on 20 April. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official 'Aziz Duwayk said: There is no longer any doubt that the Palestinian negotiators will go to Washington and that they have decided to play the U.S. card, not their nation's card.

To mark the beginning of their fifth month of exile, the deportees will march in a demonstration toward the Zummarayya crossing-point today.

Islamic Jihad official Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami announced: While everyone is eager to go to Washington, we will walk toward our land regardless of the dangers. Our march will be a message to the Arab world, which has forgotten us. We knew from the start that the Arab countries, which claimed to back us, were solely interested in scoring negotiating points. They never seriously thought of reconsidering their participation in the negotiations.

Dr. 'Umar Far'uni, director of the deportees' infirmary, said: We feel more alone than ever. They have exploited our cause but we know very well that we cannot take anything from the Israelis unless it is extracted by force.

Far'uni said that Rabin's self-rule proposal is a joke, and declared: As long as we beg, we will not get anything, especially as the Arabs are ridiculing our struggle.

March Begins 16 Apr

NC1604082893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0800 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The Palestinian deportees began their march from their camp in Marj al-Zuhur toward the Zummarayya crossing point at 1000 today. They called their march the "march of the shrouds" to protest what they consider the Palestinian negotiating delegation's lack of concern for them.

The Israeli occupation forces and their agents fired four shells that fell one km from the deportees camp before the march started. The occupation forces also reinforced their positions on the Zummarayya crossing point and brought in Merkava tanks and soldiers to confront any attempt to cross the point.

Around 100 deportees led the march, wearing white shrouds with the following written in black: Death for the glory of God is our most sublime hope.

Among those who wore the shrouds were deportee spokesman Dr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi and Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, official in charge of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine.

Israeli Reinforcements at Crossing

NC1604114493 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The Israelis reinforced the Zummarayya crossing point today with 35 armored vehicles, tanks, and personnel carriers, two water trucks, and around 50 soldiers. The soldiers and some of the armored vehicles were deployed 500 meters from the crossing point where an earth rampart was erected.

Shaykh 'Abdallah al-Shami, official in charge of the Islamic Jihad Movement in Palestine, told correspondents: Nothing scares us, neither shells nor the shedding of blood.

Lebanon's Hizballah party has placed ambulances and rescue teams in nearby villages to evacuate any possible casualties. It is known that Hizballah is the main party that extends secret aid to the Palestinian detainees. [passage omitted]

Before the march started, the deportees embraced each other. Some wept, and others wrote to their families who were contacted during the night through two telephones in the camp.

Despite the accusation of weakness the deportees have leveled against the Arab parties negotiating with Israel, orders were issued to raise only Islamic slogans not directed against any of the Arab parties.

Hizballah's Shaykh 'Ubayd Discusses Life in Detention

NC1604105593 (Clandestine) Voice of the South in Arabic to Lebanon 0845 GMT 16 Apr 93

[First part of interview with Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd, a Hizballah leader held prisoner in Israel, by an unidentified correspondent, speaking Arabic with a Hebrew accent; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Is this television interview [as heard] a voluntary one; that is, are you doing it of your own free will and not being forced to?

['Ubayd] Yes. There is no pressure at all. This is voluntary and I have not been forced to do it.

[Correspondent] Do you consider yourself to be free to talk [word indistinct], or more specifically, do you consider yourself to be somewhat restrained in your remarks?

['Ubayd] If I knew that I was not allowed to talk about a specific matter, then I would not have agreed to do the interview.

[Correspondent] Then tell us how you spend your days. What do you do during the day? Do you watch television or do physical exercise? What is your daily routine?

['Ubayd] My routine starts at dawn. I wake up at dawn, after midnight. [as heard] I wake up at around 0200 or 0300. It is time for me to eat because I fast all day. I eat and perform the late night prayers. That's until dawn. I then perform the morning prayers. I rest, that is sleep, for an hour or two, until the sun rises. I wake up and nobody orders me to wake up.

[Correspondent] What about physical exercise? Do the Israelis prevent you from doing any physical exercise, for example a little walking?

['Ubayd] Swedish exercises are done inside the cell. Outside, we have what we call an interval outside the cell, in the open air and the sunshine. This interval lasts for two hours, two hours outside the cell in the sunshine. I walk. One is free to walk, to do exercises, to pray. One is free. There are no restrictions. There is a large square where one spends time.

[Correspondent] Do you get news? Do you know about what is going on in the world? Do you, for example, listen to the radio or watch television and get to know about what is going on in our world?

['Ubayd] There is no radio or television. I do, however, receive newspapers. True, they are a little late in reaching me, around a month, but I get to know a lot about what is happening in the world from them, whether world papers or Lebanese and Arab ones.

[Correspondent] This means that you receive the news around one month late, that is four weeks late? This is how you know about what is going on in the world?

['Ubayd] Almost. A month or three weeks.

[Correspondent] Do you know that the United States has recently elected a new president, President Bill Clinton?

['Ubayd] I heard about it not from the papers but from an interrogator who was sitting here and talked about it.

[Correspondent] How do you regard this report about the new President? Do you regard it as good or bad news?

['Ubayd] This primarily concerns the Americans. It is of secondary interest to us but I do not have much information. Regrettably, I spent almost all of George Bush's presidency in detention. This one is still new and I know nothing about him. Regrettably, I can't tell whether he is good or not. A man proves his mettle when he is tested.

[Correspondent] How are the people in charge here who are currently running your life treating you? Is the treatment good or bad, harsh and hard or humane?

['Ubayd] It is normal treatment. According to my experience, my treatment here has been very normal and somewhat good. Of course one must take into account what one might call the objective circumstances. I am a captive and the other party is the captor. However, there have been no offensive acts. On the contrary, respect is shown for me as a shaykh and to my worshipping practices. There have been no offenses in this respect. These things are part of the general order, no more and no less.

[Correspondent] Tell us about your reading. Apart from the newspapers you have mentioned, do they allow you to read books or other material you ask for and do they bring them to you?

['Ubayd] I had the Koran with me on the day I came here. It was kept with me. After the interrogation period, I received political books and novels. Additionally, I have writing materials and I am writing what I want. I have in my cell many things I have written myself. I asked for the holy books, the Torah and the Bible, and they were brought. I have plenty of time to make a comparative study of the Koran, the Torah, and the Bible. They brought me Arabic editions of the Torah and the Bible.

[Correspondent] Did they also bring you books or magazines about Israel and the Jews that you found interesting?

['Ubayd] There are books about men who are almost the first in Israel, who established a state here. These are political books originally written in Hebrew and apparently translated into Arabic, probably by foreign translators. I have read about many personalities, including Moshe Dayan and Shlomo Hillel.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the way you are being treated is an attempt to make you change your views?

['Ubayd] I do not think it reaches this point. However, the issue is one of general order that is being applied. I regard this as normal treatment by a state that has a public order. Perhaps there is a motive behind it but frankly, however, I have not seen any hint that I might change, or as they say, be reborn. I do not believe this is the motive.

[Correspondent] You spoke of fasting a little while ago. What is the reason for this fasting? Is it a form of protest against your circumstances or for purely religious reasons?

['Ubayd] It has no connection with my circumstances. It is a purely personal, religious matter that I see as a training of my will and endurance. It is a matter connected with worship. God, may He be exalted, enjoined us to fast in Ramadan as an obligation. At other times fasting is also commendable. As in the prophet's saying: Fasting redeems you from the fire; let those who wish to fast little and those who wish to fast much do so. I found

the circumstances favorable and I asked the officials here to facilitate this. They said yes and for this reason my food is brought to me before dawn and in the evening.

[Correspondent] Speaking of the prison cell, can you describe it physically? What are its dimensions? Do you have a table to use for writing or other purposes? Can you walk in the cell?

['Ubayd] It is about three by three meters, or maybe a little smaller. It has a toilet and a sink, and a table and a chair. It is comfortable to some extent, but it is not like a furnished room in a house or a hotel, for example. Generally, it would have been all right had it not been for the psychological hardship, having a man locked in a prison cell.

[Correspondent] Do you want to take this opportunity to ask for anything?

['Ubayd] Detainees or captives, naturally, want to be free, no more, no less.

[Correspondent] You have spoken about interrogators. Are you being interrogated daily? What exactly do you mean by interrogators?

['Ubayd] There is usually a certain period of interrogation at the beginning of captivity. After that, the captive may be summoned for questioning from time to time, or interrogators may come to his cell to ask certain question—their familiar one being: Is everything all right? Soldiers ask the captive such questions all day long. But at the beginning, someone—maybe an Army officer—asks the questions. We call him an interrogator because he asks and I answer.

[Correspondent] Was there any harsh treatment for you at the beginning, or has the treatment been consistent? Did you experience more difficult days, or has it always been the same?

['Ubayd] Of course the first days were more difficult for two reasons: First, the transition from freedom to captivity and, second, the pressure of questions and answers. Interrogations, naturally, must achieve their purpose. This was the situation. There was no physical pressure or so-called torture. It was a psychological problem, related to time, questions and answers, and fatigue.

[Correspondent] The most difficult part of prison life is isolation from other people. Can you see or mix with others, or are you isolated?

['Ubayd] Of course I am alone in the cell. I have no contacts with others.

[Correspondent] So you are isolated.

['Ubayd] (?True).

[Correspondent] Could you tell us something about your family? I understand that you have five children, may God preserve them. Tell us something about them, about your family.

['Ubayd] Could you please be more specific? Do you want to know their names, for example? I may talk for two or three hours if the question is not specific.

[Correspondent] You have five children?

['Ubayd] Yes.

[Correspondent] How old are they?

['Ubayd] The eldest is 10 now, the next is nine, and the third is a girl of seven and a half. The fourth is five and the youngest is a girl of about three and a half.

[Correspondent] Was it possible for you to get in touch with them over the past period, for example to write to them or send them letters about your conditions here?

['Ubayd] Absolutely not.

[Correspondent] Do you know why?

['Ubayd] The only way was to ask the officials. Their answer was: This is captivity. There were no contacts with the Red Cross or others. In this case [words indistinct] as a hostage, not as a normal captive, in order to exchange me with the captives in Lebanon. I conclude, perhaps, that there is no news about the captives in Lebanon. This is perhaps a kind of reciprocal treatment.

[Correspondent] This is also my conclusion. Israeli navigator Ron Arad, who is currently imprisoned in Lebanon, cannot get in touch with his family. I believe this is the reason they are preventing you from getting in touch with your family.

['Ubayd] (?This is perhaps) the reason. I do not know if there are any other reasons.

Al-Asad, Lebanese Prime Minister Discuss Developments

JN1404171893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 14 Apr (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri at 1300 today.

Talks centered on issues of concern to both countries, including cooperation and developments in several countries in the region.

Kurdish Leader Talabani Meets Khaddam, Iraqi Opposition

NC1404172593 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1605 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Brother Jalal Talabani, secretary general of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has met with Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party. During the meeting they discussed the current situation in Iraq.

Talabani also held talks with Iraqi national opposition members living in Syria on unifying the opposition. Talabani is expected to meet again with Syrian officials and the Iraqi opposition.

Prime Minister Receives Visiting Russian Delegation

JN1504190893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] 15 Apr (SANA)—Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Rabobyagev, assistant to the Russian minister of foreign economic relations [name and title as received], and his accompanying delegation at 1330 today. The Russian ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and ways of promoting them in various fields.

AL-BA'TH Reiterates Arab Commitment to Peace

JN1504101093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0840 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (SANA)—In a commentary published today, the newspaper AL-BA'TH addresses the points the U.S. Administration has announced with regard to Washington's concept of the role as full partner and the statements it made, urging all parties to actively engage in the peace process.

The paper affirms that active engagement in substantive peace talks will undoubtedly shorten the road to peace. However, the paper maintains, it seems that reality is one thing and hopes regarding this reality are something else. This dichotomy between reality and hope is caused by the obstacles Israel is placing in the way of the peace process. As for the deportee issue, it is only one of these obstacles, the paper adds.

AL-BA'TH goes on: Preliminary consultations on the ninth round of negotiations will be crowned with a meeting due to be held in Damascus. This meeting will make a decision, affirming a common Arab stand and underscoring the Arabs' serious commitment to peace as well as their willingness to actively engage in efforts to address substantive issues in the Arab-Israeli conflict. However, it remains to be said that the U.S. Administration must translate its ideas regarding this fact into deeds.

TISHRIN Criticizes Rabin's Statements in Ismailia

JN1504110493 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0845 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Damascus, 15 Apr (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has criticized Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements in Ismailia yesterday. The paper said there was nothing new in the statements, and that they were merely wordplay and circumvention of hard facts and realities.

In its editorial today, TISHRIN adds that Rabin accepted Resolutions 242 and 338 from the time Israel had to take part in the Madrid conference. However, what is important is not making statements or articulating approvals, but rather expressing a true and serious commitment to the provisions enshrined in these two resolutions.

The paper says that as long as Israel is not taking a clear, defined, and practical stand toward withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, there is no doubt it will continue its policy of prevarication, deception, and delusion. Israel is also playing with words these days, and is exercising a policy that radically contradicts the bases and elements of peace. Moreover, Israel's lies were about to be believed when it said that it was possible to achieve a settlement that would alow it to keep the occupied Arab territories. This is rejected in part and parcel by the Arabs, because peace and occupation cannot coexist.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN demands the United States to intervene directly and swiftly to save the peace process and prevent Israel from going overboard with its games and maneuvers, especially since the elements and principles of peace should not be harmed and achieving peace will be in everyone's interest.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Does Not Accept Hekmatyar Cabinet Proposal

NC1604075793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar announced his proposed cabinet yesterday. According to IRNA, Hekmatyar recommended that the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and the Interior should be administered in the form of a council. In the list proposed by the prime minister of Afghanistan, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, and Qazi Mohammad Amin Waqad have been nominated as the supervisors of the Council of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defense, and the Interior.

In the cabinet he proposed to the president, Hekmatyar named 'Abdol Sabur Farid, Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, and Soleyman Gaylani as his deputies.

The Afghan presidential spokesman told correspondents yesterday that Borhanoddin Rabbani had not accepted the cabinet proposed by Golboddin Hekmatyar. He stressed that Borhanoddin Rabbani wants Ahmad Shah Mas'ud to continue as defense minister.

Presidential Spokesman Explains Action

LD1504204593 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] In an interview with domestic and foreign journalists this afternoon, esteemed Aziz Morad, head of the Press Department of the Islamic State of Afghanistan Presidency, explained the recent political developments in the country.

The correspondent for the BAKHTAR news agency reports that in this interview, esteemed Morad said:

After the bloody clashes in the capital and as a result of endeavors by a number of domestic and foreign personalities and the talks between esteemed Professor Borhannodin Rabbani, president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, and leaders of the jehadi formations the Islamabad accord was signed. The main objectives of these talks and the accord were to end fighting and to secure peace in the country, particularly in Kabul city, as well as to form a durable and a broad-based government in which all formations can take part. After talks continued for a number of days the accord was signed. Hekmatyar was assigned to form his cabinet in consultation with the leaders and president and then to hand over this list to the president for formal announcement. The Islamabad accord also contains provisions for the solution of the country's issues which must be solved in accordance with the country's laws.

Talks were held in Jalalabad with the participation of the formations' authoritative representatives for the implementation of the Islamabad accord. The only result of these talks was to invite the leaders to take part in Charasiab session. A large number of the leaders of the formations or their representatives did not take part in Charasiab session. Although the list of the cabinet had been sent to the Presidential Office by Hekmatyar, the leaders of the formations raised objections because they were not consulted in drawing up the list. There were talks that the formation of cabinet was facing difficulties and because of this the president of the Islamic government took initiatives to accelerate the process of cabinet formation. A meeting between the president and the prime minister-designate helped this process. During this meeting the esteemed president emphasized that the esteemed prime minister-designate must consult the jehadi leaders. It was agreed that contacts were to be established.

Esteemed Aziz Morad said: Most of the formations' leaders sent a letter asking the president to consider their wishes, as they had not been consulted by the esteemed prime minister-designate. These formations, consisting of Harakat-e Enqlab-e Eslami [Islamic Revolution Movement], Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement], Ettehad-e Eslami [Islamic Unity], Hahaz-e Meli-e Eslami [Islamic National Front], and Jamiat-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan], wrote to the esteemed president and asked him to pass on their demands to the prime minister-designate as this task is not possible for them. In consideration of these demands, the esteemed president in his message asked esteemed Hekmatyar to consider the demands of these five formations in the composition of his cabinet and to review this list.

Answering questions raised by the journalists he added: In accordance with paragraph 2 of the Islamabad accord, the list of the cabinet must be prepared in consultation with the jehadi leaders and the president and the president should announce it. The main issue is the opposition of the formations' leaders to the proposed cabinet list.

As to the question of which party is in favor of the proposed list, esteemed Morad said: Five parties gave the president a new plan. The Islamic Party of Mowlawi Khalis has not (?objected). Two leaders of the Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity] Party, despite the fact that they have not joined the five formations, opposed Hekmatyar's proposed list. Thus, only one formation is in agreement with him.

In connection with the future actions of the Islamic government, esteemed Morad said: We believe that the aim of Islamabad accord is to end fighting and to find a way for understanding. Despite the fact that there have been objections to the proposed list of Prime Minister-designate Hekmatyar, we will try to continue talks and to prevent another clash in the city. Nevertheless, the government has the duty to maintain the security of Kabul citizens. In the past we have preferred the path of talks, and now too we try to solve issues through talks.

Conflict Jeopardizes Cease-Fire

NC1504210393 Paris AFP in English 1845 GMT 15 Apr 93

[By Terence White]

[Text] Kabul, April 15 (AFP)—Afghan Prime Minister-designate Golboddin Hekmatyar Thursday [15 April] accused forces loyal to President Borhanoddin Rabbani of preparing for war, further jeopardising the fragile ceasefire agreement.

The accusation was swiftly denied by a presidential press spokesman, but as the two rivals drew up opposing cabinet lists for a coalition government Hekmatyar warned "we are ready to defend ourselves."

From his Charasiab headquarters 10 kilometres (six miles) south of Kabul Hekmatyar, leader of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party] faction, told reporters Thursday Rabbani forces were preparing an offensive.

"Frankly, I can say that they are preparing themselves for another round of fighting," Hekmatyar said.

"Their activities in the west and southwest of Kabul show clearly their intention for a wide scale offensive," he added.

"We do not want to start the war, but we are ready to defend ourselves," he said, against the background noise of his men practising driving in Russian-made tanks.

He said recent talks with Rabbani, leader of the rival Jamiat-e Eslami [Islamic Society] faction, had not resolved the issue of a choosing a new cabinet, and that Rabbani was trying to sabotage the recently signed Islamabad peace accords.

The claim that Rabbani was back on a war footing was hotly denied by presidential spokesman Abdul Aziz Morad: "I assure you that we are making no preparations for a new round of fighting," he said.

"We hold the conviction that all problems can be solved by negotiation and mutual understanding".

He denied that the movement of long-range missiles seen trucked through north Kabul constituted war preparations.

On the issue of the unresolved Afghan cabinet, Morad said the list of nominees submitted to President Rabbani by Hekmatyar was unacceptable to most mojahedin faction leaders.

He said Rabbani sent a letter to Hekmatyar Thursday rejecting the prime minister-designate's selection, and offered in its place an alternative list.

"The president has the authority to reject, amend or approve the prime minister's list," Morad stated.

Morad said Rabbani's letter explained that after last week's failed meeting Rabbani began negotiations of his own with five mojahedin faction leaders.

These five proposed their own list to fill the contested cabinet portfolios.

Whereas Hekmatyar proposed a joint council to head the key Defence, Interior and Foreign Ministries, Rabbani is understood to have stood by the incumbent ministers.

Thus Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, also of Jamiat-e Eslami, would remain at the helm of the powerful Defence Ministry, which Hekmatyar wants to put under a council headed by Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, the first president of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, who would be a pawn of Hekmatyar.

Hekmatyar has offered Mas'ud the slots of second deputy prime minister and head of the joint council to run the Foreign Ministry.

Hekmatyar, nominated prime minister in Islamabad with the agreed authority to form a cabinet, denies Rabbani has the right to approve or change the prime minister's list of nominees.

He also said the ceasefire agreed to in Islamabad was temporary.

"A permanent ceasefire is conditional on the establishment of the cabinet, and the commissions agreed upon in the Islamabad accords," Hekmatyar said.

Hekmatyar also accused Rabbani of trying to attract members of the former Afghan Communist Party Politburo, as well as attempting to inveigle the support of Uzbek General Abdul Rashid Dostam, the former pro-communist militia warlord, in the coming fighting.

It was unclear who Dostam, whose substantial forces stayed neutral in the last clashes, would align himself with if fighting flared again.

Under Rabbani's plan the Interior Ministry would remain in the hands of Rasul Sayyaf's Ittihad-e Eslami or Islamic Union faction, and Pir Sayed Ahmed Gailani's Mahaz-e Milli or National Islamic Front would retain the Foreign Ministry.

The other two supporters of Rabbani were reported as Nabi Mohammadi of Harakat-e Inqilab-e Islami (Islamic Revolutionary Movement) and Shaykh Asef Mohseni, leader of the Shiite Harakat-e Eslami [Islamic Movement] faction.

There is also understood to be some agreement between Rabbani and the other Shiite faction, the pro-Iranian Hezb-e Wahdat [Unity Party].

Bangladesh

Parties Demand 'Rightful Share' of Ganges Water

BK1504091793 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 4 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Different political parties have called upon the people to launch a united movement to obtain their rightful share of the waters of the Ganges River. These

parties made this call after the failure of the secretary-level talks between Bangladesh and India on the water sharing issue.

Speaking at a rally yesterday, the general secretary of the Sramik-Krisak Samajbadi Dal [Workers-Peasant Socialist Party], Nirmal Sen, said the previous Awami League government signed an experimental accord with India on the water sharing issue while the government of late President Ziaur Rahman reached a temporary agreement in this regard. He added that the former Ershad government failed to do anything regarding this issue. Nirmal Sen said it is not clear what the present government will do to resolve this problem. He demanded a clear statement from the government in this regard.

Different student organizations held separate rallies at Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding an equitable share of the Ganges' waters. Speakers at these rallies condemned the subservient foreign policy of the government and called upon the people to launch a united movement to achieve their rightful share of the Ganges waters.

The Nezame Islam Party held a separate meeting yesterday with the party vice president, Waliullah Miah, in the chair. In a resolution, the meeting called upon the government to sever economic and trade links with India until the Ganges water problem is resolved.

Leaders of the Bangladesh Youth Friendship organization in a joint statement urged the government to hold consultations with the opposition political parties with a view to evolving a strategy for launching political and diplomatic initiatives related to sharing the Ganges waters.

Several other political parties, including the Ulema Committee, the Freedom League, Islami Chatra Samaj, and the Freedom Fighter's Council, have demanded that this issue be raised at international forums.

The Committee for Resisting Indian Agents at its meeting held yesterday said India is making efforts to destroy Bangladesh by unilaterally siphoning off the waters of the Ganges River.

India

'Militants' Attack Army Convoy, Kill Four Soldiers

BK1604061893 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1615 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Militants in Jammu and Kashmir have attacked an army convoy in Sopore town killing four soldiers. Two jawans [soldiers] injured in the rocket attack have been admitted to hospital and are reported to be in a serious condition. The militants escaped after the attack and security forces are combing the area.

The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, today ruled out elections in Jammu and Kashmir before restoration of normalcy. Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh today, Mr. Chavan said the union cabinet was in the process of framing a definite policy on Kashmir. In reply to a question on the merger of some states for administrative convenience, Mr. Chavan said there would be no further reorganization of states. Referring to Punjab, the home minister said although near normalcy has been achieved the security forces cannot afford to be complacent.

Group Claims Attack

BK1504162293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1443 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Srinagar, India, April 15 (AFP)—Muslim guerrillas Thursday [15 April] killed four Indian army soldiers in an ambush in Kashmir, where unending violence also left a border guard and three civilians dead, police said Thursday. The militants attacked the troops with AK-47 rifles and grenades when they were carrying out a search operation to flush out rebels in Sopore in Kashmir's north, Director General of Police Balwinder Singh Bedi said here. Two other soldiers were also injured, the state police chief added.

The outlawed Hizbul Mojahedin claimed responsibility for the attack, and said 10 soldiers were killed and its guerrillas seized a huge quantity of arms, including a light machine gun, a rifle with telescopic sights and three AK-47 rifles.

The Hizb, the most powerful of Muslim groups fighting to secede Kashmir, said the ambush was to avenge last week's death of its leader Maqbool Illahi at the hands of security forces in Badgam district. There was no official comment on the Hizb claim in this summer capital of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Three civilians were also killed Thursday when security forces returned the fire after coming under attack from militants at Badgam town, police said here. No further details were available.

A member of the paramilitary Border Security Force (BSF) was killed by guerrillas overnight Wednesday in Sopore, an apple-growing region 55 kilometers (34 miles) from here.

Guerrillas also fired rockets at a government complex in south Kashmir and torched two government vehicles in the state's north and a government office in this city Thursday, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the rebels. Islamabad denies the charge, but backs the Muslim campaign, calling it a legitimate struggle for self-determination. India and Pakistan hold parts of Kashmir and have twice gone to war over the picturesque province.

Army Kills, Captures 'Militants,' Seizes Materiel

BK1604040893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, army jawans [soldiers] have foiled an attempt by armed militants to infiltrate into the

valley. An official release in New Delhi said eight militants were killed during an encounter somewhere in (Baramula-Kufwara) sector which continued till yesterday forenoon. An army jawan was also killed. A large quantity of arms and ammunition and explosives were recovered including two universal machine guns, six AK-56 rifles, five prefabricated explosive devices, and four high-powered radio sets. The release added that more troops have moved to the area for combing operations.

In another operation yesterday, the troops killed four top militants in an encounter near (Safakadal) locality in Srinagar. They also apprehended three other militants from a hideout.

Kashmir 'Militants' Burn Mosque, Houses; 5 Arrested

BK1504161593 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, militants set fire to a mosque in a bid to divert the attention of the security forces who had launched a search and combing operation near Anantnag. The fire was immediately extinguished before it could cause much damage. In a separate incident, the militants burned 11 houses of innocent persons in different localities of Srinagar.

Meanwhile, security forces have arrested five Pakistan-trained militants, including two self-styled area commanders of a militant outfit.

Another BJP MP Arrested for Ayodhya Mosque Demolition

BK1504161693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] arrested Swami Maharaj Sakshi, a BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] member of parliament, from Kanpur today in connection with the demolition of the disputed structure at Ayodhya on 6 December. According to CBI sources in New Delhi, he was picked up early this morning after searches conducted at his residences in Delhi and Mathura yielded incriminating documents. The CBI had arrested five persons on the 8th of this month on similar charges.

A division bench of the Orissa High Court today ruled that neither the district magistrate nor the superintendent of police has the powers to seal or lock the premises of a banned organization in exercise of power under the Unlawful Activities Prevention Act 1967. Allowing a writ petition filed by the officebearers of Orissa unit of the banned VHP [Vishwa Hindu Parishad, World Hindu Council], the division bench comprising Mr. Justice G.B. Patnaik and Mr. Justice S.K. Mohanti asked the district authorities to open the lock put on the office premises of the Orissa unit of the banned organization.

Supreme Court Stays Operation of High Court Verdict

BK1604081493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] The Supreme Court has stayed the operation of the Madhya Pradesh High Court verdict, quashing imposition of president's rule in the state on the 15th of December last year. The Division Bench of the court also allowed an application by the Union of India seeking transfer of two writ petitions pending in Rajasthan and Himachal Pradesh high courts challenging the dismissal of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-ruled state governments and dissolution of the assemblies on the same date. The bench comprised Mr. Justice S. Ratnawale Pandian, Mr. Justice Dr. T.K. Thommen, and Mr. Justice Dr. A.S. Anand. The court also stayed proceedings on all petitions pending in various high courts involving substantially similar questions of law.

'World's Second Largest Radar' Becomes Operational

BK1504162693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, world's second largest radar at Gadanki near Tirupati has become fully operational. The radar will continuously monitor the different atmospheric levels. Designed by the Society for Applied Microwave Electronics Engineering Research, Bombay, its work will be coordinated by the Department of Space. Besides the atmospheric research, the radar will help to establish an efficient communication network.

Steps Taken To Use Remote Sensing Technology

BK1504094293 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] India is all set to make remote sensing technology operational. According to Space Applications Center sources in Ahmedabad, with this end in view, a national natural resources management system is being implemented under the aegis of the Planning Commission. The Department of Space is the nodal agency. Under the program, several schemes have been launched by central ministries and state governments.

President, Parliament Speaker Receive Jordanian Delegation

JN1504120193 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1100 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] The Indian president has commended Jordan's democratic experience and valued high his majesty's leadership. Mr. Shankar Dayal Sharma also voiced his satisfaction over existing friendship ties between his country and Jordan. He told visiting Jordanian parliamentary delegation that New Delhi was looking forward to promoting its ties with Amman.

Earlier, the delegation led by Lower House Speaker 'Arabiyat was received by the speaker of India's Parliament. Discussions covered parliamentary ties and the need to exchange expertise in the parliamentary field.

Commentary Views Growing Ties With ASEAN

BK1504114493 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Om Prakash Pandit commentary: "India-ASEAN Growing Relations"]

[Excerpts] Before we talk of growth of mutually beneficial relationship between India and the ASEAN countries, we must understand the birth of the association of the six Southeast Asian nations, its aims and objectives, its significance in the present economic, political, and security contexts, and the importance of the role India has in the region. It was in 1967 under the Bangkok Declaration that ASEAN was formally established with five members, namely Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, and Singapore. Brunei joined the ASEAN in January 1984. [passage omitted]

With close coordination of association's corporations and committees, ASEAN has today become a force to reckon with on Asian Continent. It is the fastest growing region in the world. It also conducts dialogues with the Third World countries for its development in the fields of trade, investment, finance, and technical assistance. At its annual summit last year at Singapore, it had its focus on Indochina region. The foreign ministers from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand decided to seek cooperation among the countries in the region and announced Vietnam and Laos would become observer and India a regional dialogue partner. Till then, only Papua New Guinea had observer status. India being the only Asian country having regional dialogue status has many chances to have big openings in this region. India has good trade relations with countries of ASEAN.

Prime Minister Rao's visit to Bangkok has made an encouraging beginning toward the partnership with ASEAN. Thailand, a key member of the group and chairman of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, has shown great interest for further developing bilateral trade, especially in the areas of services and technology. Singapore has already offered to act as a mediator for closer partnership. The structural adjustments and the liberalization of India's economy have already created a lot of interest in ASEAN for new economic cooperation. India opens up an enormous market, especially at a time when recession-hit Western economies are taking to protectionism. India's image as a powerful and responsible regional power and the shared concern of transborder terrorism and drug trafficking are plus points in this regard. It is confirmed by the recent naval exercises between the Indian, Malaysian, Indonesian, and Singaporean navies.

Commentary Reviews Trade Ties With Burma

BK1604111793 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Commentary by journalist Suresh Singh]

[Text] After many years of subdued business and trade relations, possibilities of better and stronger relations have brightened up recently with Myanmar [Burma], India's neighbor on the eastern side. Discreet and persistent efforts from both the sides are being made to improve the economic ties between the two countries. High-level delegations have exchanged the visits to either country in the last few weeks with an eye on furthering econmic relations which are lying low for quite some time due to various reasons. Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. J.N. Dixit headed a five-member high-level delegation to Myanmar last month. It was the highest official delegation to go to Myanmar in several years with a mission mainly to improve the relations between the two neighbors. The visit has raised the posssibility of bettering trade and bilateral relations. Earlier, another high-level Indian delegation consisting of leaders of industry and business houses visited Myanmar. This delegation explored the prospects of setting up joint ventures and opening of border trade between the two countries. Similarly, a trade delegation from Myanmar also visited India recently and drew up a list of items which could be imported from India.

These activities have reset the frozen relations of the two countries in motion once again. Exports from India to Myanmar increased nearly three times from 13.4 million rupees in 1989-90 to 33 million rupees in 1990-91. This includes mainly jewelry, iron, and steel rods and bars. Import-wise, the increase was from 830 million to 1,660 million rupees during the period. Though in terms of money this increase seems to be quite large, the total trade figures are still very low and there is a scope for growth in this area. India is of the view that there is a large market in Myanmar for engineering goods, particulaly for the small-scale sector. Drugs and pharmaceuticals, chemicals, and various modern electronic equipments are also in great demand. Imports from Myanmar so far have been restricted to traditional items like pulses, timber, minerals, and only a limited quantity of rice. India's interest in promoting trade with Myanmar and seeking its cooperation in dealing with trans-border insurgency is guided by various considerations.

During his visit, Indian Foreign Secretary Mr. Dixit had discussions with Myanmar's State Law and Order Restoration Council's strong man, Lieutenant General Khin Nyunt, Foreign Minister Mr. U Ohn Gyaw, and also ministers of agriculture, home, cooperation, finance, and revenue. The two sides decided to take effective measures to maintain peace and tranquillity along the border and to prevent all categories of negative activity. To achive this objective, Myanmar has accepted the Indian proposal to evolve an effective mechanism of border management. This includes strengthening of contacts between the civilian border authorities. Agreement has

also been reached to check effectively smuggling of dutiable goods, narcotics, and unofficial border trade between the two countries. Myanmar has also agreed to provide all possible support to check drug trafficking across the border. Myanmar, Thailand, and Laos constitute a Golden Triangle providing haven to drug traffickers. Certain areas in Myanmar, where illicit opium is grown, are under the control of drug mafia who have defied the army and have been plying their trade without hindrance. Now with formalization of trade arrangements under the fresh agreements, it is hoped that the trade will be conducted only through the approved channels and will go a long way in containing smuggling. Countries such as Japan, China, Germany, South Korea, and ASEAN countries are trying to take advantage of the growing Myanmar market. India is well aware of this potential market and, therefore, trying earnestly to carve a niche for its commodities in the Myanmar market.

Iran

Israeli Gaza Withdrawal Would Be 'Calculated Plot'

NC1304073593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 13 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary prepared by the Central News Unit's research group from the "In the Margin of the News" feature]

[Text] On the eve of the resumption of the so-called bilateral Middle East peace talks in Washington between Arab governments and the Zionist regime, Israel's political circles are again discussing withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. Political observers believe that the raising of this topic and Zionist regime leaders emphasizing the regime's readiness to place the Palestinians in charge of affairs in this region within the framework of self-rule speak of a new plot, which the combatant Palestinian groups should confront.

The Gaza Strip, inhabited by about 750,000 Palestinians is among the world's poorest and most densely populated areas. In the five years or so since the Muslim Palestinians' uprising started, this area has been among the main hearths of Palestine's Islamic activities. The Zionist regime has never completely dominated it. The material poverty of the Gaza Strip has prevented the Zionist regime from implementing its policies on constructing townships to house Jewish immigrants during the several decades since this area was occupied.

Knowing the area's political-economic situation, Zionist political circles have always considered the continuing occupation of the Gaza Strip useless for Israel and considered withdrawal from this area to be economically and politically beneficial. Although most of these calculations are apparently correct, the heads of the Zionist regime have always opposed this proposal, fearing that withdrawal from this area could lead to the emergence of a Palestinian government and thus threaten the so-called national security of Israel.

Political observers believe that if the agreement of the Zionist leaders to withdraw from the Gaza Strip is serious, it constitutes a calculated plot aimed at spreading discord among the Palestinians. Since the spectacular intifadah of the Muslim Palestinians began, this area has been almost under the control of the people. The Zionist regime's presence has been limited to some Zionist towns and military control centers.

In the Gaza Strip, the presence of Islamic groups such as the Hamas Movement and Islamic Jihad is extremely strong, while the activities of national Palestinian groups in the region are very limited. The plan for the Zionist regime's withdrawal from this area and the handover of this area to the PLO—in view of the composition of combatant Palestinian groups there—show the dimensions of the Zionist regime's plot and intensify the threat of a rift among the Palestinians.

Through their national duty and acquaintance with the usurping and sly Zionist regime, the Palestinian forces should confront such plots and prevent a rift from being created among them.

Commentary Says Rabin's Policy Not Different

LD1504144193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1006 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] On the eve of the opening of the ninth round of bilateral so-called peace talks to solve the Middle-East crisis between the Arabs and the Israelis in Washington, the Zionist regime's Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin took a short trip to Egypt and discussed these talks with President Mubarak of Egypt. At the end of this short trip, the second one in less than two years, Rabin announced at a news conference in the city of Isma'iliyah, in Egypt, that his government, contrary to the previous one, will accept the UN Security Council's resolution 242 to solve the Palestine problem and that that resolution will be at the basis of his talks with Arab governments. But this does not mean that Israel is prepared to withdraw from all the territories occupied in 1967.

Although Security Council resolution 242 calls on Israel to withdraw from all the territories occupied in 1967 unconditionally, political observers believe that Rabin's stand and the acceptance of resolution 242 will not bring about any fundamental changes in the peace talk trends. They also do not feel that there is much difference between the policies of Israel's Labor and Likud parties.

The former government of Shamir, by choosing Jerusalem as the capital city of the Zionist regime and formally annexing the Golan Heights and also by refusing any kind of withdrawal from the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, was violating resolution 242 and

blocking the peace talks. However, Rabin's government, has, from the time it came into power a year ago, accepted the principle of withdrawal from Syria's Golan Heights. It has announced readiness to grant a kind of autonomy to the Palestinians of the West Bank and Gaza and has thus seemingly adopted a different policy toward the peace talks.

Bearing in mind these differences, how is it that political observers think that the policies of the previous and the present zionist regimes toward the peace negotiations in Washington are similar and correspond to each other?

The acceptance of resolution 242 by Rabin and its rejection by Shamir lead in practice to the same thing and it is unlikely to create any fundamental change in the bilateral peace talks. In other words, Rabin has accepted resolution 242 on the surface but by giving it a different interpretation, he is repeating Israel's previous stand. Rabin is presently offering partial withdrawal from the Golan Heights, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip and is giving the Palestinians nothing but the promise of a defective autonomy. All of these proposals are out of line with the contents of resolution 242. At the same time the power found through the Intifada and the failure of the Zionist regime's repressive policies has prompted Rabin to show more inclination toward non-Islamic Palestinian groups and a proclivity toward compromise in the Arab world. The acceptance of Faysal Husayni as a member of the participating Palestinian delegation in the peace talks, bearing in mind Israel's previous veto of those born in Jerusalem or those who are members of the PLO, is among the concessions which the Zionist regime has been granting the PLO recently. In this way, that regime hopes to reach compromise with these groups of Palestinians. The role of Mubarak in closing the gap between the viewpoints of the PLO and those of the United States and Israel, is definitely worthy of note.

In view of this move by Israel, the PLO has also shown some flexibility toward participating in the ninth round of the peace talks, which are due to begin in Washington in a few days' time. Yesterday, the advisor to the head of the PLO announced that the PLO delegation will be participating in the peace talks even if the issue of the deportees has not been solved.

Consequences of Western Presence in Gulf Viewed

NC1004193393 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1650 GMT 10 Apr 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] The U.S. State Department has announced that U.S., UK, and Kuwaiti forces will hold naval maneuvers for one week, beginning today, to enhance the combat abilities of these forces and boost multilateral coordination. [passage omitted]

It would be naive to think the intensive military presence of Western countries in the Persian Gulf region—a presence that features, among other things, the establishment of military bases and the signing of massive defense contracts—aims at preserving peace and stability. The Western military presence in the Gulf has been mounting steadily since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait ended.

There is a growing belief that Western countries actually want to create more hotbeds of tension in the region and amplify those regional conflicts that could have been resolved through dialogue. Through this policy, the West hopes to justify its military presence in the region and encourage the sale of more weapons and military equipment to the region's oil-rich countries.

In addition to this strategic and military objective, Western countries, through magnifying the seriousness of the situation in the Persian Gulf and creating the illusion of instability in this part of the world, aim to divert public opinion from the Palestinian issue—an issue that is currently passing through an extremely sensitivity and grave stage—and occupy the world with a multitude of imaginary issues and perils.

Despite these developments, which are attributed to imperialist designs and the ambitions of the global arrogance, the issue of peace and stability in the Persian Gulf remains hinged on the cooperation and goodwill among the region's countries in various cultural, political, and economic domains.

The purchase and stockpiling of weapons in the region and the fact that foreign forces are being allowed to maintain a presence in the region will seriously increase the possibility that the crisis [not further specified] may worsen.

Iranian-Afghan Border Provinces Sign Cooperation Accord

LD1404193093 Tehran IRNA in English 1656 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] Herat, April 14, IRNA—Khorasan Governor-General, Ismael Mofidi, wound up his visit here last night signing a letter of understanding with his counterpart from Herat Province, Ismael Khan, on cultural, social, economic, commercial and security cooperation between the two neighbouring provinces.

Mofidi told IRNA that the two agreed to cooperate in clearing the border area of thugs and smugglers and help in the return home of Afghan refugees from Iran.

The Iranian side promised to grant rls 500 million to rebuild the Herat-Islam Qal'eh road, establish a refugee camp near Herat, supply drinking water and electricity to Herat and revitalize agriculture in that province.

They also agreed to set up a daily flight between Herat and Mashhad, the capital of Iran's Khorasan Province, and also train teachers and provide educational equipment.

The two officials described outcome of their three-day talks as "good" and said it was a step towards future cooperation.

Economic Committee Meeting Held With Turkmenistan

LD1404135793 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] The first session of the joint economic committee of Iran and Turkmenistan was held this morning chaired by Iran's transport minister and Turkmenistan's vice president.

[Unidentified correspondent] The ministers of transport, construction, and industries, and a number of Turkmenistan economic officials and Iranian deputy ministers are taking part in the three- day session. In the first round of talks at the session, referring to the stress made by Presidents Hashemi-Rafsanjani and Niyazov on the expansion of ties between Iran and Turkmenistan, the heads of the Iranian and Turkmenistan economic delegations said that the aim of the joint committee was to concentrate efforts to expand those ties. The two countries agreed to form a number of committees to cooperate in transport, communications, industries, mining, and agriculture, and for the oil, gas, and energy committee, and the trade and banking committee to expand their ties.

It should be pointed out that Iran and Turkmenistan, which are members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, have previously declared their readiness to connect the Tajan-Sarakhs-Mashhad railway, build the gas pipeline to transfer gas from Turkmenistan to Europe and Caucasus via Iran, erect an oil manufacturing plant in Turkmenistan, and transit Turkmenistan goods through Iran to the Persian Gulf and Iranian goods to Uzbekistan and other central Asian republics. They intend to increase flights between the two countries.

Major Evasive About Naming Date To Meet With Rushdie

LD1404085893 Tehran IRNA in English 0607 GMT 14 Apr 93

[Text] London, April 14, IRNA—The prime minister's office denied reports Tuesday that an imminent meeting had been arranged between John Major and apostate author Salman Rushdie but confirmed that such an eventuality was certain to take place.

A spokesman told IRNA the premier would be "pleased" to meet the writer, who has infuriated the whole of the Islamic world through the publication of his blasphemous book, "The Satanic Verses" and the matter had been discussed recently with a Rushdie representative.

However he categorically refuted a report in the London GUARDIAN that a date and a time had been agreed for the meeting and that details were being kept secret until after it had occurred for security reasons.

Speculation has been ripe for nearly two months that the British prime minister was prepared to further provoke what UK Muslims have already called a "callous disregard" for the feelings of the real victims of the outrage caused by the Indian-born author.

In particular, the issue is being politicized as a dispute with Iran with questionable motives and demanding that in some way the fatwa on Rushdie's life is "repudiated" even though the British Government accepts that the religious decree is irrevocable.

Several UK parliamentarians, including backbench supporters of the government, have expressed reservations about such a ploy and fear that it will backfire on Britain's beneficial trade imbalance with Iran.

Currently the London Chamber of Commerce is trying to rescue its first trade ministry-sponsored mission to Tehran since the Islamic revolution more than 14 years ago and which is due to take place early next month.

The visit by eight British companies looks likely to be the first victim of the UK Government's renewed attempts to make the fatwa into a political dispute that started with foreign office minister, Douglas Hogg's publicized meeting with Rushdie in February.

Suggestions are that if Major also takes a public stand, the damage to relations could go much further than economic ties.

According to the Iranian Embassy in London, a decision is still awaited about appropriate visas being issued for the trade mission and that the signs are that it will at least have to be postponed.

British companies have been anxious for the trade delegation to go ahead in order to win much needed contracts for the UK in Iran. since the 1979 Islamic revolution, Britain has lost more than other European countries in terms of economic interests.

Trade has also been adversely affected owing to Britain's strong support of Washington's hostility towards the Islamic revolution. In terms of exports, London lags far behind its rivals Germany, Japan, France and Italy.

Iraqis in Iran Protest Over Suppression of Shiites

LD1104103593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 11 Apr 93

[Text] On the 13th anniversary of the martyrdom of Ayatollah Sadr, one of the ulema and thinkers of the Najaf seminary [in Iraq], and his noble sister Bint al-Huda at the hands of Iraq's security forces, Iraqis living in Tehran gathered in front of the UN's representative office in Tehran for a protest demonstration.

The demonstrators, who had gathered together at the invitation of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq, chanted slogans calling for the punishment of the agents behind the suppression of Muslims and, especially, Shiites in Iraq.

At the end of the demonstration, they submitted a letter addressed to the UN secretary general to the UN's representative office in Tehran. The letter refers to the indifference of international organizations toward the assassination of martyr Muhammad Baqir al-Sadr. Referring to the suppression of Iraqi Shiites at the hands of the Iraqi Government's forces, the demonstrators' letter calls on the UN secretary general to strive toward the fulfillment of the wishes of the Iraqi people.

President Discusses Investment, Industry in Kerman

NC1504072893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani attended the Kerman Administrative Council session last night. Referring to the rich resources, the potential of the people, and the country's geographic situation, he said: Islamic Iran always deserves to be independent and powerful. Our people have repeatedly proven that they are capable, regardless of how much help we give them, and the officials of the country should value serving these people, who are a divine blessing.

The president thanked the people for their patience with current problems and stated: Our alert people have realized that if we have not met their daily needs but instead have allocated investment for the infrastructure, this was the best thing to do. To compensate for our backwardness, we need to plan for a long period of programs and effort.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani pointed out that the second five-year plan marks the end of concentrated intervention. It also marks the further use of national capabilities to encourage the people to invest.

The president described the presence of the people on the scene as a manifestation of their trust in the country's directors, and called on officials to listen to the people's complaints and to strive to solve their problems.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also attended a five-hour tour of an exhibition of the Islamic Revolution's achievements in Kerman and spoke to industrialists and the directors of the pavillions. In this exhibition, industries and the products of the various industrial units in Kerman are being exhibited in 20 halls.

At the end of his inspection of 300 pavillions, the president described the variety of exhibited goods, the industrialists' initiatives, and the conformity of industry to the province's needs as the special characteristics of the exhibition. Hashemi- Rafsanjani stated: There are 1,200 industrial units and 450 heavy industries in this province. During my tour, I witnessed the hopeful morale of the industrialists and their remarks on the flourishing industry and economy in the region.

The president added: The agricultural sector has progressed very well in this province. Also, due to its rich mineral resources, Kerman Province has enhanced the country's development of mines and minerals.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed hope that with the limitations on the import of goods through the imposition of tariffs, as well as with the changes in the foreign exchange rate, various incentives in the country will help domestic production compete against similar foreign products.

Inspects Copper Mines

NC1604084593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0330 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani continues his visit to Kerman Province. He inspected various sections of the massive Martyr Bahonar copper complex and the museum of contemporary art in Kerman. We begin our news in detail for this hour with a report by our colleagues from Kerman:

[Begin unidentified correspondent recording] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani visited the peripheral industries unit of the Martyr Bahonar copper complex last night. He expressed his satisfaction at the way the work was progressing and stressed the need for gaining access to the market. He added that the strategic value of these products and their role in attaining self- sufficiency, even in the field of consumer industries, is clear to all.

While emphasizing the valuable role of these items in the production chain, the president said: If we move ahead in this market, we will be able to enter international competition in production with concomitant value-added [arzesh-e afzudeh] gains. Even if we reach the level of 50,000 tonnes in the international market, we will be able to earn $50 million from value-added goods.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed that the peripheral industries of the Martyr Bahonar copper mines are national reserves, which were put into operation and are being administered by our own forces. He said: In fact, I consider this complex a source of prestige for the system.

The commercial production level of the peripheral industries from copper in 1371 [year beginning 21 March 1992] was 18,000 tonnes. Exports amounted to 1,000 tonnes and it is predicted that this year, exports will increase to more than 4,000 tonnes. The products of the peripheral industries from the Martyr Bahonar copper complex are currently being exported to Germany, Singapore, and Western countries in growing quantities.

President Hashemi-Rafsanjani also visited the Kerman museum and viewed the artifacts on display. At this museum, which is one of the richest museums in the country, the works of prominent Iranian and international artists are housed. [end recording]

Commanders Discuss Role of Armed Forces

LD1604104493

[Editorial Report] Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian at 0705 GMT on 15 April carries a one-hour phone-in program called "In line with the people, in step with the officials" featuring Major General 'Ali Shahbazi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic; Brigadier General Abdollah Najafi, commander of the Ground Forces; Brig. Gen. Mansur Sattari, commander of the Air Force; and Rear Admiral Abbas Mohtaj, deputy commander of the Navy. Also featured on the program is Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Gholamreza Safa'i, representative of the leader and head of the political department of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

After introductions, Shahbazi gives "a very brief" outline of the activities of the Armed Forces since the end of the Iran-Iraq war. He says the most important issue that was clarified since the end of the war was concerning the duties and responsibilities of the Armed Forces and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps. Some 50 sessions of deliberation resulted in a proposal put before Khomeyni who approved it. Based on this, the task of the Armed Forces became to defend the country's borders and preserve its territorial integrity. Shahbazi notes that the Armed Forces gained valuable experience from eight years of war and now other countries are seeking exchanges of students for training because they are "seeking our expertise." There has been progress in the field of self-sufficiency as well, he adds.

As for the country's combat capability, Shahbazi says: "Bearing in mind that we do not covet other people's land and that our system is one based on defense—this is why we always say the war was imposed on us and refer to it as the imposed war—we have done a lot of work in terms of the damage that had been inflicted against places, equipment, facilities, in the ground, air and sea forces.

"In the dimension of the ground forces, in the repair and supply of tanks, helicopters, personnel carriers, batteries, and especially regarding helicopters, which require complex expertise, as they say, the OCM's [not further identified] that they carried out have advanced a lot. I inspected all of them. I will give more details if required later.

"As for the Air Force, fortunately I must say that the Air Force has gone one step beyond self-sufficiency and it can almost be said that there are no parts—of course I did mention almost, except for two or three items—there are no parts that our Air Force would not be capable of building. They have labored a lot in the area of reverse engineering and they have reached this level of capability.

"In the Navy, much effort was put into naval vessels and sea- planes [hava-nav] and highly valuable experience was gained. Our nation is aware that experience is much better than expertise and fortunetly we have now reached this stage."

Sattari speaks next and he says the Air Force has also made a lot of progress in its endeavor to reach self-sufficiency. He says pilot, engineering, and other fields of training are continuing at the Air Force's university and college, and newly trained personnel are beginning to join their units now, replacing older personnel who went through the experience of war.

Najafi points out that work on combat readiness of the Ground Forces continues. He says the force is trying to be self-sufficient in repairs, maintenance, and rebuilding equipment. Much attention has also been paid on individual fitness training and exercise.

Rear Admiral Mohtaj then comments in very general terms on recruitment, training, and education.

Speaking about equipment, Mohtaj says: "We have concentrated mostly on reconstructing equipment. Of course, certain steps have been taken regarding the supply of equipment, within our means and in the interests of the system, such as submarines. Of course, a submarine is a vehicle. The important point is its use and the tactics employed in connection with the use of submarines. Those gentlemen have had submarines for many years. I should say that, fortunately, the Islamic Republic of Iran has had the honor of being equipped with submarines for the first time in its life. This brings a new culture to our country. Fortunately, the personnel trained in this field were able to make the submarine operational in a short period of time. They have carried out relatively good exercises with the submarine. An American Navy commander—well, they are present in the Persian Gulf and see what we are doing, up to a point—said: I could not believe that the Iranian Navy could make this submarine operation so soon."

Hojjat ol-Eslam Safa'i comments on the defensive nature of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the political department's general activities such as recruitment, making war films, manpower education and training.

Shahbazi then comments on devotion to duty, recruitment, education, and training. Sattari also comments on education and training.

Speaking about advances in technology, Shahbazi says: "The level of complex technology in the Armed Force is higher than in the nonmilitary sector. Undoubtedly, since it has a defensive aspect, defensive resources cannot be discussed in detail. As I have said, the industry is complex and we are on the verge of self-sufficiency. One of the forces has also surpassed that."

The program announcer adds: "I should point out to our dear listeners that in discussions about the Armed Forces and military technology, since most areas of achieving self-sufficiency and obtaining certain technologies have military and confidential aspects, and are part and parcel of the secrets of the organization, and cannot be discussed in public, and should not, as a rule, be discussed in such a manner, there is a restriction on answers. That is, the honorable Armed Forces commanders cannot

comment on specific systems and say we have that system. Because it has a military nature and, naturally, you would not expect it."

Sattari then answers in very vague terms about the "unbelievable" advances made in the Air Force.

Mohtaj then comments on the importance of achieving self- sufficiency and Najafi expresses happiness that the Ground Forces have a day commemorating them.

President on Importance of Sirjan Free Trade Zone

LD1504152893 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Excerpts] Continuing his inspection of the developments in Kerman Province, the president arrived in the town of Sirjan this morning where he was extended a warm and sincere welcome by the citizens of that town. Immediately on arrival, the president went to Sirjan's protected customs zone where he inspected the complementary activities of the free trade zone. In an interview with the Central News Unit correspondent, the president said: The creation of the protected customs zone here is among the fundamental tasks of the five-year plan; our country lacked such an economic system in the past. The president stressed: The protected customs zone of Sirjan is seen as the country's goods' depot. Foreign companies with a market in Iran, as well as domestic companies, can use the facilities at this trade zone for the purpose of exports.

Pointing to the proximity of Sirjan to Bandar-Abbas and the existence of railway lines, main connecting roads, an airport, and gas and oil pipelines, Rafsanjani stressed: The establishment of the protected customs zone in Sirjan will have a positive impact on the country's economy. [passage omitted]

In an address to the citizens of Sirjan who gathered in that town's stadium, the president referred to the region's developments and said: Today you are situated on the principle international route in the history of mankind. The principle route of the newly- born Muslim countries which have separated from the former Soviet Union crosses through Iran.

Outlining the existing potential in Sirjan, the president said: The Mashhad-Sarakhs railway is to be connected soon, and it will then be connected to China and to the depths of Europe and in the near future to the Indian continent via Pakistan. Sirjan will become an international spot through its links to the rest of the world, and it will also have great impact on the country's economy. [passage omitted]

Also in another speech at the end of his five-hour visit to the exhibition of the achievements of the revolution, in Kerman, the president said: Iran with its various relative agricultural, mineral, and industrial potential, as well as its workforce, energy, and cheap transportation and also a good market must be able to enter the world exports market and compete with its foreign rivals.

Remarking on the establishment of the single foreign exchange, the president said: The new economic conditions in the country and the corresponding fall in the import of foreign products by virtue of their substitution with domestic products and the boosting of industrial products promises a very bright horizon. [passage omitted]

Khamene'i Views Role of Oversight Committee

LD1204153393 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 12 Apr 93

[Text] His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution, at a meeting yesterday with the members of the Article 90 Committee of the Majlis, stressed the importance of supervising and appraising the performance of the various bodies of the Islamic Republic system. He described the committee as a source of hope for solving the people's problems and difficulties.

At the meeting, referring to the fact that the raison d'etre of the Islamic revolution and system is its popular base and that the regime's officials rose from the bosom of the nation, the esteemed leader said: The Islamic revolution of Iran is a revolution against wrong cultures which prevail in world systems. Therefore, all the officials of the system should act with Islamic motivation and sympathy for the task the Islamic system of Iran has bestowed upon them and should always strive to serve the people and solve their problems and beware that they are not negligent in this task. The biggest obstacle to their mission is for them not to consider the revolutionary task bestowed on them as important.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i said that the responsibility of the Majlis Article 90 Committee to supervise and appraise the performance of the various bodies of the system is of great importance. He said: The committee should seriously, sympathetically, adamantly, sincerely, and decisively look into the people's complaints about various bodies and follow them up. For the people consider the Article 90 Committee as a source of hope for themselves, to which they refer their problems.

At the meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Shar'i, chairman of the Article 90 Committee of the Majlis, submitted a report on the performance of the committee. He said that supervision and appraisal in the Islamic Republic of Iran system, a portion of which was assigned to the Article 90 Committee, was one of the most basic pillars of the system. He expressed the hope that, under the guidance of the esteemed leader, the committee would be able to perform its duty.

Pakistan

President Said To Demand Sharif Fire Close Aides

BK1504104693 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 15 Apr 93 p 1

[Text] Islamabad—Facing perhaps the worst crisis of his career, Prime Minister [PM] Nawaz Sharif left Aiwan-e-Sadr [President's House] Wednesday after a meeting with Presiden Ghulam Ishaq Khan who was reportedly not pleased with the activities of some of the former's aides.

Apparently, no rapprochement was reached as the President mentioned some important areas requiring urgent action by the government—an advice the Prime Minister responded to by assuring quick and precise measures.

Contrary to the past, Aiwan-e-Sadr issued a statement after the meeting which says: "They reviewed the grave and pressing national and international problems facing the country. The President urged the Prime Minister to undertake positive steps as early as possible to addresss effectively these problems to the satisfaction of the public representatives and the people. The Prime Minister undertook to do so on an urgent basis and to report to the President with precise measures in this behalf."

The President and the Prime Minister met for 90 minutes one-to-one but later ministers Elahi Bukhsh Soomro and Majid Malik—the two-man peace mission which has been trying to bridge the gap between the President and the PM.

Later the cabinet colleagues of the PM proposed Wednesday that if necessary all the ministers except Sardar Aseff, who have resigned in the past, could be immediately reinducted in the cabinet.

The capital which was rife with rumours early in the day that the PM had resigned was later hummed with different interpretations of the Aiwan-e-Sadr's statement which did not say how the meeting went. The Premier's sympathisers kept insisting that all was well but the rival groups described the statement as a "strict warning to the PM and a conditional one." Shortly after conversing with the President, the Prime Minister went into an informal meeting with his ministers and apprised them of his negotiations with the President. Similarly, a few aides of the President also went to him after his meeting with the Prime Minister.

Insiders told THE NEWS that the Prime Minister informed his cabinet colleagues of the details of his crucial meeting. "The conditions put forth by the President for urgent consideration were also discussed."

The Prime Minister told his ministers that the President discussed with him the recent anti-Chaudhary Nisar and Brigadier (Retd) Imtiaz sentiments and a statement by Nuzhat Nawaz, the widow of General Asif Nawaz, who had mentioned their names in a press statement describing the late General's death as political assassination.

The President is believed to have set a deadline for the Prime Minister to take immediate steps to rectify the situation, which according to some observers, calls for the dismissal or removal (from their existing posts) of some of the Premier's closest men.

Another issue on which the President reportedly expressed displeasure is drug trafficking. The Premier reportedly explained to the President that he was doing his best to tackle the problem.

The PM weighed these conditions in consultation with his associates, some of whom vowed to confront the President "come what may."

"The President demanded of the Prime Minister the resignations of a few people of his (PM's) confidence," said some sources. But the PM's camp was of the view that if the Premier did so, it will be capitulation. But there was consensus among the Prime Minister's aides that it was unethical and inadvisable to abandon friends now and they pledged to "support their friends at all costs."

This was substantiated to some extent when some ministers told reporters outside the Prime Minister's House following a meeting that "whoever wants to challenge us, let him test his resources." Another said: "We have been and will be in the government."

Minister Says Government Has 'People's Mandate'

BK1504161093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 15 Apr 93

[Text] Senior Federal Minister Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak has said that the present government has the full right to last its term because it has received the people's mandate. Addressing reporters in Islamabad this afternoon, he said those who have misgivings about it should adopt a (?sensible) attitude and should decide the matter on the floor of the National Assembly. The senior minister referred to the regional and international situation and urged all political elements that political differences if any should be solved through democratic means because instability will harm national interests. Answering a question, Mohammad Aslam Khan Khattak said the president is like the head of a family and is above partisanship.

The parliamentary group of the Awami National Party met in Islamabad today. Party President Ajmal Khattak presided over the meeting. All ministers, senators, and members of the national and provincial assemblies belonging to the party attended the meeting. The meeting participants discussed at length the current political situation in the country. Later, Begum Nasim Wali Khan, the parliamentary leader of the Awami National Party in the Northwest Frontier Province assembly, told reporters that her party wants an immediate end to the politics of confrontation and desires that all issues be settled through dialogue in the spirit of

understanding. She said the Awami National Party desires that democracy and democratic institutions be allowed to flourish.

Ministers, MP's Meet Sharif To Express Support

BK1604093293 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 16 Apr 93

[Text] Several federal ministers and members of parliament met Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif individually or in groups in Islamabad yesterday. They discussed the existing political situation in the country and assured the prime minister of their support and expressed their full confidence in him. The ministers and ministers of state who met Mohammad Nawaz Sharif included Syed Ghaus Ali Shah, Mian Abdul Sattar Lalika, Chaudhary Shujat Hussain, Syed Tasnim Nawaz Gardezi, Jam Mohammad Yusuf, Ghulam Ahmad Bilour, Chaudhary Amir Hussain, retired Lieutenant General Abdul Majid Malik, Elahi Bux Sumroo, Mahtab Ahmad Khan, Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, Ejazul Haq, Malik Naim Khan, Ghulam Dastagir Khan, Makhdum Javed Hashemi, Rai Mansab Ali, Mian Mohammad Zaman, Chaudhary Asadur Rahman, and Abdullah Ghazi. Members of parliament who met the prime minister were Raja Zafarul Haq, Subedar Khan Mandokhel, Mir Nasir Khan Bizenjo, Wazir Ali Bhatti, Sardar Mohammad Yusuf, Nawabzada Salahuddin, Shahid Khaqan Abbasi, Mansoor Hayat Chaman, and Rana Nazir Ahmad. Members of the National Assembly belonging to the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, Fazlur Rahman Group, led by Maulana Mohammad Khan Shahani, also met the prime minister and voiced their support for the maintenance of the parliamentary system.

Editorial Decries Withdrawal of U.S. Defense Aid

BK1504125693 Islamabad THE NATION in English 15 Apr 93 p 6

[Editorial: "Pakistan Nuclear Tangle"]

[Text] The report that Iran had offered to underwrite the entire defence budget of Pakistan in return for transfer of nuclear technology to that country may or may not be correct, but it does highlight the predicament in which the US has placed a former ally by reneging on all defence contracts with Pakistan. According to this report, a time may come when driven driven to the wall by the US, Pakistan which has resisted the Iranian offer so far may well be tempted to accept it. What makes such an eventuality plausible are three rather crucial factors. One is that after the stoppage of all aid to Pakistan and because of the heavy drain on its internal resources exercised by its defence expenditure, it is desperately short of cash. The instability in Afghanistan and the unwillingness of Afghan refugees to go home only aggravates Pakistan's cash shortage. The second factor is the helplessness of the West in general and the US in particular, to stop India from pursuing its already well-tested weapon-oriented nuclear programme. A conservative estimate by the West of the nuclear arsenal stockpiled by India is 25 to 30 bombs, and more are being made. As against that Pakistan's programme was frozen at its 1990 level to please the US. The dispute that has marred Pakistan-US relations is not about Pakistan's nuclear capability, which everyone knows can hardly be unlearnt, but about Pakistan being asked to destroy whatever has already been built, leaving India the sole nuclear power in South Asia. The third factor is the continuation by default of the policies of the Bush administration. The Clinton administration has not had time to review them because it has other priorities on its agenda and secondly, because it has no one in the State Department to review them. In the meantime the international conference on Non-Proliferation Treaty, in which the US is vitally involved, is being held about three weeks from now. Completely unprepared as the new US administration is likely to be for this conference, it may choose to adopt the Bush policies—i.e. a free hand to India and isolation of Pakistan—which may in fact result in nuclear proliferation in the Middle East, with or without the alleged Iran connection.

Whether or not the US Congress chooses to review the wisdom of the Pressler Amendment, in view of the latest reports about South Africa and Israel, besides of course Pakistan and India, having joined the nuclear club, the US administration will be left with little option but to take into account the present day realities of balance of power in regional conflicts. Driven to desperation Pakistan can be forced to resume its frozen nuclear programme. The visit of the COAS [Chief of Army Staff] to the US, now only four or five days away, could help untangle some of the short-sighted policies of the previous US administration. At least an attempt to balance them could be made. Otherwise more of the same may not turn out to be of advantage to the US.

Daily Comments on U.S. Cencom Chief's Visit

BK1504154293 Rawalpindi NAWA-I-WAQT in Urdu 15 Apr 93 p 10

[Editorial: "The Objective of General Hoar's Visit"]

[Text] General Joseph P. Hoar, the commander in chief of the U.S. Central Command, arrived in Islamabad the other day on an official visit. The U.S. Central Command chief has come to Pakistan at a time when our chief of army staff is going to pay a visit to the United States, which has stopped all economic and military aid to Pakistan. U.S.-Pakistan relations have become strained and it appears that Washington wants to mete out the worst punishment without respect for our past friendship, even though Pakistan has always proved to be a reliable ally of the United States.

Under these circumstances, it is difficult to say anything about the motives for Gen. Joseph Hoar's visit. The strain in U.S.- Pakistan relations has developed not because of Pakistan's fault or any shift in its policy, but because of Washington's favorable attitude toward India and its continued search for the opportunity and pretext to unnecessarily harass Pakistan and declare it a terrorist state. In the past, whenever any U.S. general or defense

official came to Pakistan, it was considered an informal visit in light of the strong bilateral relationship in the defense field and nobody denied the usefulness of such visits. But now that the U.S. priorities in economic and defense fields have changed and Washington has included Pakistan in the ranks of its enemies, a question about Gen. Joseph Hoar's visit naturally arises as to why he has come to Pakistan. If the United States has come to realize that Pakistan's importance in the region remains intact and that it cannot eliminate tension and establish a peaceful atmosphere in this region by losing Pakistan, then the visit is a godsend.

During their meetings with Gen. Hoar, our senior officials will definitely try to convince him that despite the stoppage of the U.S. economic aid and loans during the past two years, Pakistan has survived and our armed forces continue to be the most important force in the region. This may help in establishing good relations between the forces of the two countries, as in the past. During this visit, Gen. Hoar should open his eyes and see for himself that Pakistan is not involved in any terrorist incidents. In fact, the country has no time to indulge in such activities because it is embroiled in its own political problems.

* Government Seeks To Oust Arab Relief Groups

93AS0731A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic
3 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Jamal Isma'il: "Pakistan Holds United States and Arabs Responsible for 'Afghan Arabs'"]

[Text] Islamabad—Pakistan is holding Arab and Western countries responsible for the presence of "Afghan Arabs" in its territories, pointing out that these countries supported the mojahedin in their war against the former communist regime in Kabul. Pakistan said that it has repeatedly asked the capitals concerned to return these Arabs to their countries.

This statement comes at a time when the issue of Arabs in the mojahedin ranks has flared up. Pakistani Interior Minister Shujat Hussain announced two days ago that his country seeks to close the dossier on the Arabs in Peshawar in wake of the arrest last week of a number of Libyans from whom counterfeit Arab passports and seals were seized.

Arab sources working in relief groups in Peshawar have denied that they have been notified officially to evacuate their Arab employees in Peshawar. Meanwhile, local authorities in the province have refused to deliver a list containing the names of Arabs to the central government in Islamabad.

Pakistani Foreign Ministry Spokesman Munir Akram has said: "We are aware that hundreds of Arab mojahedin are still in Pakistan, but this is not solely our responsibility. It is also the responsibility of their countries and of the United States. They (the Arab mojahedin) came here not only with their countries' knowledge, but also with the support of these countries, which wanted them to take part in the Afghan jihad against the former communist regime."

Akram added: "There is no justice or logic in saddling Pakistan with the responsibility of these people," pointing out that his country's government has asked the Arab countries to return the Islamists to their countries, especially in the wake of their reported connection with explosions in New York and other places and with the domestic problems in some Arab countries, such as Algeria and Egypt.

Islamabad has failed to get a list of Arabs residing in Peshawar because the local authorities have refused to count them and have demanded as a condition that the central government ask the governments of Sindh and Punjab for lists naming all of the foreigners who are living in the two provinces. It is to be noted that the number of Arabs living in Peshawar without a residence permit do not exceed 1,000, whereas more than 1 million foreigners live in Karachi, Hyderabad, and Punjab illegally. Most of them are immigrants from India, Bangladesh, and Burma.

In light of the internal struggle it is experiencing, it is not expected that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's government will expel the Arabs from Peshawar, despite the pressures exerted on it by some Arab capitals and Washington.

Tal'at Ramadan, the Egyptian Embassy information attache, has told AL-HAYAH that his country "feels proud of its citizens who have fought in Afghanistan, and it has no objection to their staying in Pakistan and Afghanistan. Moreover, the Egyptian Government has not demanded that they be handed over to it. But what we object to is having their activity turned into activity against their country's government."

Ramadan added: "It was wrong for Egypt's youth to fight and operate under the banner of countries other than their own. The countries that financed their arrival reaped the good reputation, and now they want to saddle us with the burdens of our citizens' arrival in Afghanistan. The Egyptian Government, which facilitated and helped the arrival of Egyptian citizens in Afghanistan, should have established an Egyptian relief organization through which they would operate, instead of operating through organizations belonging to other countries."

Meanwhile, Pakistani officials have cast doubt on extraditing the Libyans arrested in Peshawar last week or other Arabs, especially because Pakistan has no extradition treaties with these countries. Some Pakistani officials do not find it unlikely that a large number of Arabs will take refuge in Afghanistan, especially because the peace accord concluded last month will help the situation there stabilize, thus making it easy to absorb the Arabs, unless they go to the Tajik refugee camps and start training the Tajiks to fight the communist government in Dushanbe.

*** Police Arrest Illegal Arabs in Peshawar**

93AS0731B London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 7 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Pakistani Police Arrest Illegal Arab Residents"]

[Text] Peshawar—Pakistani police launched yesterday a campaign to pursue illegal Arab residents, especially in Peshawar Province in the northwestern part of the country. Roadblocks have been erected, and motorized and foot patrols have been organized in central Peshawar and in the nearby Hayatabad suburb where Arab communities are concentrated.

Witnesses have told AL-HAYAH that police patrols have arrested no less than 30 Arabs, including Shaykh Abu-al-Qasim, director of the Mujahidin Services Bureau, which was created by the late Shaykh 'Abdallah 'Azzam. Abu-al-Qasim has been detained at Tawun Jail in central Peshawar.

The witnesses added that the detainees include two Palestinian young men known as Abu-Mundhir and Abu-Hamzah. In a [telephone] conversation with AL-HAYAH, the police said that they also arrested two other young men at a roadblock but let them go later after verifying the authenticity of the papers of the vehicle in which they were traveling.

It is feared that reports of the arrest of Shaykh Abu-al-Qasim will anger the Arab communities because of the prominent place that the shaykh holds. AL-HAYAH has learned that seven other Arabs have been detained with the shaykh at the same jail.

Pakistani security sources have assured AL-HAYAH that they are gathering the names of and information about Arabs residing in the province and that they have counted 2,640 Arabs living in Peshawar. The number of those among them who do not have legal residence permits is unknown.

*** Parties Protest Mass Arrests of Arabs**

93AS0731C London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 8 Apr 93 pp 1, 4

[Article by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan: "Arrest of 163 Arabs in Peshawar; Pakistani Parties Allude to Demonstrations"]

[Text] Peshawar—Mass arrests of Arabs in Peshawar, northwestern Pakistan, continued yesterday, affecting 163 young men, amidst a climate of resentment and fear in the Arab communities. The arrests campaign has been coupled with broad denunciation by Pakistani parties. In two statements to AL-HAYAH, Qazi Hussein Ahmed, leader of the Jamaat-i-Islami, and Sheikh Sami'-ul-Haq, leader of the Association of Islamic Ulema, have expressed their denunciation of these arrests and threatened to organize demonstrations to protest them.

The Jamaat-i-Islami leader said: "The Arab youth who have played a historical role in the Afghan jihad and who are contributing now to the process of the reconstruction of Afghanistan are being subjected to arrest." He accused Islamabad of "succumbing to the orders of Uncle Sam (the United States), who is trembling in fear of the Islamic revival." This leader also warned the Pakistani Government that "it will face the Islamic nation's and the Pakistani people's wrath if it does not stop obeying the Americans' orders."

The leader of the Association of Islamic Ulema characterized these arrests as "heinous acts" and threatened to organize demonstrations and protests against them. He stressed that he will meet President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to express his opposition to these arrests.

Arab sources in Peshawar told AL-HAYAH that 163 Arabs from various nationalities, including Egyptians, Iraqis, Palestinians, and Algerians, have been arrested and jailed. They will have to wait for the authenticity of their passports and residence permits to be verified before those who are proved to be legal residents are released. A total of 27 Arabs have been arrested for carrying unofficial [counterfeit] papers.

A number of released individuals have talked to AL-HAYAH about the "bad" detention conditions, saying that 40 individuals were detained in a small room with an area of no more than 9 square meters and that they had to spend the entire night of Tuesday-Wednesday standing on their feet.

Police roadblocks and patrols have been deployed in all parts of Peshawar Province, especially along the highway leading to the Afghan city of Jalalabad, in order to prevent Arabs from fleeing to Afghanistan.

A delegation of the Jamaat-i-Islami visited the Arab prisoners, offered them food, and expressed its support for them. Another delegation from the Arab relief organizations tried to meet with the general commissioner of refugee affairs to ask him to intervene. But some delegation members have told AL-HAYAH that the commissioner refused to discuss the issue.

It is expected that a committee from the police and passports and immigration department will arrive in Peshawar to conduct further interrogations of the detainees in preparation to sending to the central prison those whom it is decided to continue to detain.

Golboddin Hekmatyar, the Afghan prime minister designate, has tried to intervene with the Pakistani authorities and has called to ask that the Arabs be treated well. Hekmatyar has instructed officials of the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party], which he heads in Peshawar to follow up on the issue with the authorities concerned. His party has formed a liaison committee for contacts with the Pakistani authorities. The party officials will collect the

passports of the Arabs and present them to the authorities so that they can issue special identification cards that permit these Arabs to stay in Peshawar and the neighboring areas.

In this climate, the Pakistani prime minister has appealed to the Afghan mojahedin to release all of the former Soviet Army prisoners they have. His appeal followed his morning reception of Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev who arrived in Islamabad two days ago for an official visit.

It has been learned that Sharif assured the Russian minister that he will exert utmost efforts to ensure release of the prisoners, believed to number 80 soldiers. Meanwhile, the mojahedin admit to having only 20 prisoners.

Islamic Party Chief Opposes Anti-Arab Operation

BK1504125393 Lahore PAKISTAN in Urdu 15 Apr 93 pp 8, 7

[Text] Akora Khattak—Maulana Samiul Haq, the secretary general of the Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam, has asked the government whether our police and the administration are now working under direct orders from the United States and whether they are receiving direct instructions from Washington and Israel. He said this astonishing situation has arisen out of the operation against the Arab nationals in Peshawar.

While the provincial chief minister says that the operation is being carried out at the instructions of the higher authorities, and not because of his own will, Federal Interior Minister Chaudhary Shujat Hussain claims that he has not ordered these operations. This clearly means that the administration and the police are following foreign orders without the provincial and federal governments being aware of it. Samiul Haq said that while our prime minister is staging the drama of touring parts of the country and promising steps for the welfare of widows and orphans, the ongoing operation against the Arabs is resulting in at least 20,000 orphan children, martyrs' families, and widows losing their source of livelihood because they are now being taken care of by charitable Arab organizations.

Maulana Samiul Haq also expressed regret at the Pakistan president's insensitive attitude toward this issue, saying that the arrest of Arabs is continuing and disrespectful treatment is being meted out to them in prisons in spite of the fact that the president's attention has been drawn to this issue on many occasions.

Maulana Samiul Haq has appealed to all religious organizations and Islamic scholars and leaders of the country to observe a day of protest against the above operation on Friday [16 April].

Religious Parties Condemn Arab Nationals' Arrest

BK1504122093 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 15 Apr 93 p 3

[Text] The outbrust of Ulema and activists of religious parties against the arrest of Arab nationals in Peshawar remained continue rather increased on Wednesday. [sentence as published]

Oazi Fazalullah, Advocate, central vice president, Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Islami [JUI], amidst slogans of Allah-o-Akbar and America murdabad (down with America), bitterly criticised the western powers for their alleged conspiracies hatched against the Arab Mojahedins of Islam.

He, while addressing a protest meeting organised by JUI at Kabuli Chowk, Peshawar clearly announced, "these Arabs are not terrorists, terrorists were those who massacred lakhs of people during World War-II by throwing atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. He resented that George Bush proudly claimed that American president, Truman decision of atomic bomb during the World War-II as a courageous one, which provided guideline to them.

He informed that the history of American and western terrorism was not short and was open secret. He added that when General Noreiga of Panama refused to obey the ill-oriented orders of America and tried to resist U.S. efforts of renewing the Panama Canal Treaty, he was arrested, tried and jailed for life in America.

About the arrest of Arab nationals, he said that they offered valuable sacrifices during Afghan war and helped their Afghan brethren during their time Of distress. He added that with the arrival of these Arabs the economy of Pakistan was also stabilised. He deplored, "the Americans and Western countries supported Afghan jihad for their own personal gains, but after the demise of the Soviet Union they lost their interest in Afghan war and termed the Mojahedin as terrorists".

He condemned that the American government has given six months probation period to Pakistan so as to prove that it is not sponsoring terroristic activities, US is considering Pakistan as their colony.

He lamented that the already defamed terms used in the world, like fundamentalism, extremism, fanaticism are now used by the American and Western conspirators for the Muslims. He ridiculed that at the time of American elections, people were distributing sweets over the victory of Clinton, whereas, at that time he told them that the Democrats are more harmful than the Republicans for Pakistan, which proved to be true.

Abdul Jalil Jan, provicial lead of JUI, criticised the attitude of Peshawar administration for their atrocities against the Arabs.

He demanded immediate release of all the arrested Arab nationals and asked the government that they should be let to decide their future themselves.Earlier, a protest procession was taken out from Madani Mosque, Namak Mandi, Peshawar. It was led by Oazi Fazalullah, Abdul Jalil Jan, Irabad Madani and Mir Nawaz Afridi of JUI. The participants were chanting slogans against America, Egypt and Pakistan governments.

They passed through Khyber Bazaar, Sukarno Square and Kabuli. The placards and banners, they were raising read down with America, release the Arab Mojahedins, Chandhry Shirjaat Hussain Murdabad.